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Community venture for trail to link historic landmarks

BID TO BOOST TOWN TOURISM

Report by Jamie Brassington

HALESOWEN could soon have its own history trail taking people on a tour of the town's ancient landmarks.

A church dating back 1,000 years and an ancient stream running under the High Street would be among the places highlighted.

It forms part of ambitious plans set out by the Halesowen Business Improvement District (BID) to improve tourism and trade over the next five years.

Leaders behind the community-led business group are working on long term plans for the town until 2022. The trail would feature signposts with historical information leading people to various landmarks, including St John the Baptist Church.

Barry Wheeler, business manager at the BID, said: "We have a number of interesting buildings in Halesowen. The church dates back to Norman times. Some of its foundations go back even earlier."

"There is an ancient stream that runs under the High Street, that not many people know about. There is also Leasowes Park, made by William Shenstone. Not too many people are aware of it all, and we want to promote this with trails and signage."

The move has been welcomed by Halesowen historian John Billingham, a member of the Halesowen History Society.

He said: "I welcome these plans because Halesowen has a long history, going back to the Domesday Book in 1086. St John's Church is mentioned with two priests. This implies it was a minster. One would have been the church priest and the other would have been a priest for outlying churches. The first reference to Halesowen is in court rolls dated 1270, when it appeared as 'Hales Owen'."

Despite its proximity to Worcestershire, Halesowen was an island of Shropshire territory from the 11th to 19th century, possibly because land was owned by the powerful Earl of Shrewsbury.

HALLOWEEN HOCUS POCUS WITH FAMILY FUN



Louise Newton, Wayne Edwards, Eve O'Connor and Elisa Bradley at the Cornbow Centre are getting ready for Halloween

ORGANISERS of a Halloween fun trail are encouraging families to turn up to take part wearing their most creative costumes.

The event next weekend will be held in aid of charity and will take participants on a trek around the shops in Halesowen town centre.

Event organiser Eve O'Connor said: "We hope people attending can be as creative as possible."

The trail is the first public event organised by Halesowen Business Improvement District (BID), which was recently formed to boost trade in the town centre.

It will raise funds for Birmingham-charity Get Ahead which supports people with head and neck diseases and cancers.

Participants will be asked to donate a small fee at the starting point in the Cornbow Shop-

ping Centre and then they will then be given a map of the trail around the town centre with lots of prizes up for grabs.

The event will take place on Saturday and Sunday, October 28 and 29.

Ms O'Connor added: "We are really happy to be hosting the event on behalf of the Halesowen BID. It is nice to see the BID organise the first official event in the town centre."

BUSINESS

Safety firm sold in £280 million deal

A CRADLEY Heath-based firm supplying safety products for people working at height has been bought in a £280 million deal. Kee Safety, which employs around 480 people, has been sold by investment groups Dunedin and LDC to Bahrain-based Investcorp.

Established in 1934 and based on the Cradley Business Park, Kee Safety is a leading global provider of equipment to protect people working at height from the risk of falling. Products include roof edge protection, barriers and guardrails. As well as its Black Country HQ, Kee is in 10 countries, including the USA and China.

SPEEDWAY

Heathens fans fear for the future

FANS of Cradley Heathen speedway club fear they may have seen their team's last league fixture.

Loyal fans were at Wolves' Monmore Green track to see Heathens' 'home' clash with Eastbourne on Monday, which Heathens lost by three points.

Heathens have been homeless for more than 20 years, since leaving their stadium in Dudley Wood, and have shared with Wolverhampton and Birmingham. But Heathens riders will be in action in the FAST Golden Hammer at Monmore Green at 7.30pm Monday.

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MYSTERY

Probe as five birds found dead in park

THE RSPCA is investigating what happened to five magpies found dead in a Halesowen park.

Councillor Stuart Henley, who found the dead birds in Olive Hill Park, said: "It is not nice for kids walking through the park. I have removed them to save upset."

The RSPCA said it was illegal to kill or injure wild birds.

INSIDE

EVERYONE GOES CRAZY FOR TOM



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80 fined as camera car targets schools



Karen Shakespeare

EIGHTY fines have been handed out in one month since a school parking spy car hit the streets in Dudley borough.

The car is fitted with mobile CCTV and has just completed its first month full service keeping children safer outside schools.

It is designed to deter people from parking on yellow 'keep-clear' zigzag lines outside school gates. Legislation means it is an offence to stop anywhere on the lines, punishable by a £70 fine. The zones are designed to make the busy areas outside schools safer.

More than 80 penalty notices have been handed out since the car took to the streets in September.

The car, which was already one of the council's fleet of vehicles, has been kitted out with smart technology.

Using Google Maps and GPS, it senses when a vehicle has been driven into an area with the yellow zigzag lines and starts recording. It stops when the car leaves the area, recording the number plates.

The car was deployed outside several schools in June and July as part of

a pilot project but has been rolled out across the whole borough since pupils started back in September.

The project is costing £60,000 to set up and aims to be self-financing, funded by the income from fines.

Councillor Karen Shakespeare, Dudley's cabinet member for environmental services, said: "Illegal parking outside schools puts the lives of children at risk.

"The yellow zigzag lines are designed to keep the road clear so that children can see and be seen."

● Talking Point – Page 6

Couple's saucy snap leads to wedding ban

A COUPLE from Rowley Regis have been branded 'scum' after an X-rated photo taken at a Greek chapel could result in thousands of couples having to change their wedding plans.

Matthew and Carly Lunn's saucy snap, said to have been taken as a joke, has caused a storm on the holiday island of Rhodes – with Greek Orthodox religious leaders outraged by the newlyweds' antics.

All foreign weddings have now been banned at St Paul's Bay Chapel after an official said he was disgusted by the image, which was posted online.

The couple have found themselves at the centre of an international storm with some furious bride and grooms-to-be even threatening to sue the Lunn's after their wedding plans were thrown into chaos.

Ruined

One woman revealed her £40,000 wedding could be cancelled, while a man said he was considering speaking to a solicitor after fearing his wedding plans could be ruined. Daniel Gaynor, 32, said: "I will be going to see a solicitor to see if any action can be taken against them. They are scum."

Matthew, aged 27, called the ban 'madness'. The photo showed new wife Carly, 34, in her wedding dress simulating a sex act on him near the Greek Orthodox chapel.

Matthew, a car breakdown firm worker, admitted the couple now regretted taking the photograph after it went viral on the internet and was viewed around the world. It prompted a headline response from the insulted locals in Rhodes.

Matthew said: "We were just pre-



Carly Lunn and husband Matthew say it was just a joke

tending and having a laugh. The Greeks have completely over-reacted. We don't think we did anything wrong but we regret it and wish we hadn't bothered.

"The ban's madness. This has caused us all sorts of hassle."

Carly said: "It was something we said we'd do for a joke. We expected a lot of laughs and jokes from people, but didn't expect it to be as popular as it was.

"People back in England were com-

menting on it, the whole thing went mad."

Giorgos Eleftheriou, president of the local Lindos community in Rhodes, who enforced the ban, said: "I have hundreds of soon-to-be brides from Britain and all over the world calling me today in tears because of this decision.

"We are Greek and we cherish our traditions and the sanctity of our religious sites. We cannot allow this disgusting behaviour to prevail.



St Paul's Bay Chapel is a popular beauty spot on Rhodes

"Shame on those two for the damage they have done.

"Would they have done the same in their homeland; in front of a British chapel, a Jewish temple, a Muslim mosque?"

It is believed the couple have since deleted their Facebook profiles due to the backlash over the snap.

The chapel is described as 'the perfect location for couples looking for an open-air wedding with a view' on one travel website.

Ophelia sent roof debris crashing to the street

A BUILDING'S roof partially collapsed in Quarry Bank as the Black Country was lashed by the fringe of Hurricane Ophelia, which brought widespread destruction to Ireland on Monday.

Brierley Hill firefighters were called out to Quarry Bank's High Street after the gable end of a terraced building collapsed.

The property includes nine flats above a shop with one occupant having to move out for the night.

The road was closed off in both directions by the junction of New Street. No one is said to have been injured but six to eight foot of brickwork is said to have collapsed from either side of the roof.

West Midlands Police and Dudley Council are said to be looking into the incident.

The worst of the storm hit Ireland where a woman in her 50s and a man in his 30s were killed as the remnants of Hurricane Ophelia hit the British Isles. The woman died when a tree fell on her car and the man died in a chainsaw accident in Co Tipperary while attempting to remove a tree downed by the storm.

About 120,000 homes in the Irish Republic and 4,000 in Wales, were without power.

Although winds were not as violent over the West Midlands, the storm caused around 15 flights from Birmingham Airport to be grounded.

Man injured in digger incident

A FACTORY worker has suffered serious leg injuries following an incident involving a digger at Brierley Hill.

An air ambulance landed at an industrial premises on Wallows Road at around 10am on Tuesday.

West Midlands Ambulance Service spokeswoman Claire Brown said: "The Midland Air Ambulance with a doctor on board and an ambulance with two paramedics attended the scene. We treated a man, believed to be in his 70s, who has suffered serious leg injuries. He was then taken to Russells Hall Hospital by land ambulance."

Upgrading signals to ease congestion

A SCHEME to upgrade traffic lights on busy routes across Dudley borough in a bid to cut congestion has been revealed.

Signals are to be improved along Duncan Edwards Way and Stourbridge Road, near Scotts Green Island, at High Oak, Pensnett, and near Cinder Bank.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Wood will re-open to the public soon

WOODLAND near Halesowen closed due to anti-social-behaviour is to re-open to the public next month.

The Woodland Trust took the rare measure of closing Uffmoor Wood to the public in May because of dog attacks, drug dealing and sexual activity in the woods.

The trust has indicated that it will be admitting the public again from November but a date has yet to be announced.

The beauty spot, containing ancient woods, had been popular with walkers and cyclists on marked routes. It was the first time the Woodland Trust had closed a wood to the public.

Mozart and Haydn are choir's choice

A CHOIR has announced details of its autumn concert. Halesowen Choral Society will be performing on November 11 at St Margaret's Church, in Hagley Road, Halesowen.

The concert will include excerpts from Haydn's Nelson Mass and Mozart's Coronation Mass.

Tickets can be ordered at halesowenchoralsociety.org and are priced at £8.

The society is in the lookout for new members. It meets every Monday, from 7.30pm, at Hasbury Methodist Church, Albert Road, Halesowen.

Have a ball and help out hospice

EVENT organisers at Mary Stevens Hospice have launched an appeal to the public to sell the final few tickets for their anniversary ball.

The black and white themed gala on November 3 at the Ramada Park Hall Hotel, Wolverhampton, will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the official opening of the Stourbridge hospice by Diana, Princess of Wales.

The final few tickets at £45 or £49 are available on 01384 377 778 or via www.marystevenshospice.co.uk/event/black-and-white-ball website.

GP talks about career in the Black Country

RETIRED Black Country GP and author Dr Edward Cooke is to deliver an illustrated lecture in Dudley next week drawing on his experiences – comic, tragic and macabre – whilst working in the Dudley area.

His talk 'Fences and Plerces' will be held for the Black Country Society at Dudley Canal Trust's headquarters, The Portal, off Birmingham New Road, on Wednesday, October 25, at 7.30pm. Non-members are welcome.

Schools are striving to get better, says boss

DUDLEY'S schools are the worst performing in the Black Country according to figures from education watchdog Ofsted.

Figures for the year up to August 2017 found that four per cent of the borough's schools were rated inadequate and 14 per cent required improvement.

However, 13 per cent were rated outstanding – the same percentage as Staffordshire – and 69 per cent were good, which was higher than both Walsall and Sandwell.

Dudley Council's education chief, Councillor Anne Millward, said the authority was striving to improve outcomes for all its schools.

"We are heading in the right direction and working really hard alongside the schools improvement committee to target schools that need extra support," she said.

"Our task is made more difficult by the fact that successive Governments have been intent on repeatedly moving the goalposts.

"We get to a point where we are getting on top of things and then have to deal with a new curriculum, new ways of testing and new ways of reporting to the Government. As soon as we reach the required level they move the bar.

"There needs to be a smarter way of thinking nationally on how we determine schools' success."

German cycle ride for charities

THE boss of a Halesowen construction firm raised more than £2,000 for charity by cycling 176 miles through Germany in just three days.

Ian Foster, from Blackheath Products at Fairfield Park, cycled from Grob-Umstadt to Bamberg to raise funds for both Birmingham Children's Hospital and Deutsche Kinderkrebsstiftung – the German Children With Cancer Foundation.

Ian was representing the business, a trade distributor of kitchens, worktops, bathroom panelling and flooring, at a meeting in Europe when he met Tim Pearson, the CEO of Wilsonart. Ian said: "Wilsonart has a factory in Germany as well as in the UK, and Tim told me that he was organising a charity bike ride."

Road to be closed

A ROAD in Halesowen will be partly closed for two weeks for maintenance work after the half-term holiday.

Nimmings Road between Long Lane and Clement Road will close from October 30 to November 13.

Mother's marathon effort for lifesaver



Marathon mother Jennifer White with her children

A MOTHER-OF-FOUR from Halesowen, who raised hundreds of pounds for lifesaving cardiac kit in the Birmingham International Marathon, has thanked family and friends for their support.

Jennifer White crossed the line in four hours, 34 minutes and six seconds. As well as a personal triumph it saw her raise funds towards a defibrillator box, which will be placed outside Newfield Park Primary School. The 44-year-old competed on Sunday with team mates from Warley Woods Pacers.

Jennifer said: "It was absolutely superb. My family were joking that I looked as fresh at the end as when I started because I smiled a lot. I had fantastic support from my friends and family and the club. I would like to say a big thank you to those who supported me."

In 2015 Jennifer ran the Brighton Marathon to raise funds for a defibrillator at the school.

She said: "I raised about £750 two years ago and then Charlotte and Craig's Saving Heart Foundation matched it. Then the school

said that they wanted to raise money for an external box. I felt it right that I did my bit to raise money for it again. The defibrillator could save a life."

Three of her children, Scarlett and Georgia, both 8, and Noah, 10, are at Newfield while eldest Lily, 12, is a student at Earls High School.

She has so far raised £357 but is aiming to raise £650 by the end of the month. To sponsor Jennifer, visit mydonate.bt.com/events/jenniferwhitemarathon/449064

MP is backing police response to crimewave

POLICE are making tackling vehicle crime a priority in Halesowen as part of a crackdown on crooks.

Officers will also be checking vehicles to see if they are secured, following concerns that a crimewave is gripping the town. There have been reports of cars being stolen off driveways and homes being burgled.

Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris says has been speaking with the local police team who are carrying an operation to 'disrupt this criminality'. Police have recently made several arrests in the area over the past week.

Just a week ago a cannabis factory with 348 plants was discovered at Westside Industrial Estate in Halesowen, leading to the arrest of a 43-year-old man. Police also found equipment used for growing cannabis during the raid last Thursday.

In other incidents a 31-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of possessing cannabis and driving with no insurance, and a 35-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of possessing cannabis and suspicion of stealing a motor vehicle.

Operation

Mr Morris said: "No matter how big or small (the crime) it is important that residents inform our local police. This sort of criminality is completely unacceptable and I hope the culprits are brought to justice."

He added: "Following a meeting, I am working with our local police. There is an operation which is covering Halesowen where dedicated staff are working to the early hours of the morning, both uniformed and in plain clothes, targeting vehicle crime locations and seeking to disrupt this criminality and, hopefully, arrest individuals.

"The operation is current and ongoing. I will be speaking with the police to assess the effectiveness of this work.

"Part of the operation will include officers checking vehicles parked in the streets or on driveways to



More than 340 plants were found at the cannabis factory discovered on a Halesowen industrial estate

see if they are insecure or if there are any valuables on display.

"The tactic is simply to prevent residents becoming victims of crime due to leaving their cars unsecured or leaving valuables on display.

"I will be following up with the police to ensure that everything that can be done, is being done, and that residents are updated on the work that the police are doing to combat crime locally."

Meanwhile, calls have been made for CCTV cameras to be installed in a the Shell Corner area.

Businesses in that area of Halesowen are being urged by councillors to club together to get the cameras installed. Councillor Stuart Henley, who represents Halesowen North ward, said: "There has been drug dealing, break-ins and car theft. If there was CCTV they might go elsewhere and it would help the police."

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Niece still has questions over death at care home

THE family of a 93-year-old woman, who was found dead at her care home in the Black Country, have demanded more answers about the circumstances of her death.

A coroner ruled an open verdict due to 'conflicting evidence' after Margaret Janney was found dead at Roxburgh House Care Home in Cradley Heath on Friday, February 10.

Ms Janney's niece said: "A number of serious questions remain unanswered." The pensioner, from West Bromwich, was said to have been found dead under her bed at the home.

Staff failed to call 999 after finding her dead, instead calling the non-emergency 111.

Staff member Caroline Bomber, who was later dismissed, told Black Country Coroner's Court that she found Ms Janney on her left side beneath her own bed. Miss Bomber said she checked for a pulse before moving her on to the bed.

Sneaky peaky at premiere

THE stars of Peaky Blinders are returning to Birmingham this month for a special premiere ahead of the show's fourth series.

Cillian Murphy, Helen McCrory, Paul Anderson, Packy Lee and others will be on the red carpet at Cineworld Birmingham for a special screening of the first episode of the new series on October 30.

The stars will be joined by creator and director Steven Knight, who was born in Birmingham. They will hold a panel session at the end of the episode for those lucky enough to get tickets to the special event.

Fans can register online at www.bbc.co.uk/showsandtours website. The gangster drama about the criminal Shelby family was part filmed on location at the Black Country Living Museum in Dudley.

Serious

Richard Follis, a partner in Access Legal Solicitors medical negligence team representing the family at inquest, said: "A number of serious questions remain unanswered. How did Margaret come to be on the floor, for how long did she lie there, when did she suffer multiple rib fractures and when did she pass away?"

Janice Bowes-Yarnall, Margaret's niece and last living relative, said: "The questions about my aunt's death keep going round and round in my head."

"My aunt was a dear, kind old lady, an active member of Beeches Road Methodist Church and a long standing worker with the WRVS. No one should end their days in a situation like this"

Mali the chimp is berry happy at zoo



Mali enjoying her blackberry feast – the Dudley Zoo chimpanzee loves the berries harvested from the zoo's Castle Hill grounds

MALI the chimpanzee posed for the camera as she wolfed down some juicy autumnal treats at Dudley Zoo.

The attraction's seven female chimpanzees have been tucking into delicious blackberries, freshly picked by keepers from bushes around the site on Castle Hill.

And 23-year-old Mali didn't waste any time in tucking into the feast. Seasonal produce is always on the menu for the 200 different animal species at the Black Country attraction laid out around the town's medieval castle.

It's not just the chimpanzees who are getting their five a day. Keepers re-

cently discovered that a rhino iguana, named Jane, couldn't wait to munch her favourite food when keepers delivered her breakfast. The seven-year-old lizard has a particular fondness for peppers and always picks over the vegetables in her food bowl to pick out the sweet tasting peppers to enjoy first.

Hospital fails to meet A&E time targets

ONE in five A&E patients are waiting more than four hours to be seen at Russells Hall Hospital, latest figures show.

Just 80 per cent of patients were seen within four hours in August – below the national NHS target of 95 per cent.

Chiefs at Dudley Council called the figures 'extremely disappointing'. Hospital bosses also pointed to the development of a new £2.6 million emergency treatment centre which should relieve pressure on A&E when it opens next month.

The number of patients seen within four hours dropped from July, when the figure was 82 per cent. In June the figure had been 90 per cent.

Councillor Nicholas Barlow, cabinet member for adult social care, said: "We are already worried about what winter will bring. These are very disappointing figures. The problem is there is a shortage of nurses right across the board."

Majority

"There is not an overnight solution. Sometimes the Government puts in targets that are not realistic. The hospital staff are doing an excellent job."

Diane Wake, chief executive of the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, said: "We always do our best to make sure patients attending our emergency department are seen as quickly as possible and continue to see, treat, admit or discharge the vast majority of patients within four hours."

"Our combined performance in August for all types of emergency attendances, which is measured as part of the national four-hour target, was 87.2 per cent. Patients are always prioritised in order of clinical need to make sure that acutely unwell patients receive the urgent medical attention they require as soon as possible."

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Tram lines get fresh lease of life at museum

OLD tram lines ripped up as part of ongoing Midland Metro works will have a new life – at the Black Country Living Museum.

The tracks have been donated to the museum to be included as part of its vintage tram display.

Around 100 metres of tram track have been removed as part of the works which are continuing along the A41 Bilston Road.

They have been donated by company Midland Metro Alliance to the museum to enhance its Forging Ahead project. It will be installed as part of 1930s-inspired street.

Vintage

The donation was made after workers discovered that the rails in Wolverhampton was compatible with the track of the vintage tramway at the Tipton Road tourist attraction.

Paul Brown, Midland Metro Alliance project director for the Bilston Road project, said: "Whilst the track along Bilston was reaching the end of its operational life for such a busy route, there was still enough life in the track for a smaller vintage tramline."

Black Country Living Museum has announced expansion plans backed by significant financial support from the National Lottery. BCLM: Forging Ahead, will see the museum create a town focused on the 1940s to 1960s.

Free advice for those facing debt problems

A SUPPORT group is offering free advice for anyone concerned over bills or growing debts.

The Centre for Equality and Diversity, in Stone Street, Dudley, says money mentor Peter Dyson is on hand to help people gain control of their finances.

Call 07936 576194 or email moneymen torscfed@yahoo.co.uk

Speedway fans call for their own stadium to end doubts

FANS of Cradley Heathens speedway club are frustrated but hopeful for the future of their team following what may have been their final ever fixture.

Followers flocked to their meeting with Eastbourne on a windy Monday night – with the Heathens losing out by just three points.

The Heathens have been homeless for more than 20 years, meaning they have had to have 'home' meetings at the tracks of rivals in Wolverhampton and Birmingham, even as far away as Stoke.

But despite the promising support this season many fans have been left scratching their heads about the future of their team. It is not known whether the Heathens will be allowed to continue to use Monmore Green next season, the home of Wolverhampton Wolves which is owned by bookmaker Ladbrokes, due to the Wolves having more fixtures to schedule.

Stadium

Ken Cotter, aged 61, from Cradley, said: "The last three to four years, it's been Ladbrokes that have let us ride. We have ridden at Birmingham, which is not suitable, a lot of fans won't travel that far – it is a Ladbrokes stadium but they just won't travel. You don't see the crowds like you do here. I think if they can get Ladbrokes to agree for us to ride on a separate night to the big teams then I think we'll be fine."

"The problem we face with speedway is the noise, that's why there's a curfew at 10 o'clock, even here. If they get a piece of land and they say speedway, people automatically say we don't want the noise, so the council throw it out."

Ken and his wife Vicki have been attending



Monmore now more? Cradley Heathens racing at their borrowed track for possibly the last time the Monmore Green stadium since 2010. Vicki, 58, said: "Every year it is a shame because we can't look for riders and build a team because we don't know whether we're going to have a track to ride on."

"You're left at the end of the season where all the best riders have been snapped up. It's frustrating that we can't have our own track, you know the certainty is there every year."

Fan David Boxley from Cradley Heath has been backing the team since the 1960s. The 57-year-old is keen to see the team get a place they can call home. He said: "It will be very dis-

appointing if this is our last season. It's difficult to put into words really how much of a loss it will be to the supporters."

"My first meeting I was still in the pram. When they reopened in 2010 it was a good opportunity to blow the dust off the scarf. It's a social thing as well, it was great to see old friends back on the terraces again."

"We've got to try and get somewhere of our own because we're relying on Wolverhampton and Birmingham. If Birmingham were to move up into a higher division, it would mean more meetings for them, so less opportunity for us. Ul-



Ex-Heathen rider Ashley Morris, aged 23



David Boxley has been a supporter since the '60s timately we have to have a place of our own."

Officials at the club say the search has been on for a stadium since the club's reformation seven years ago.

Cradley Heathens club promoter Gary Patchett said: "If the number of teams in Wolverhampton's league, the top league, increases next year, that will increase the number of home fixtures Wolverhampton have next season."

He added: "We brought the club back to life in 2010, we've been looking for a site to develop as a stadium since 2010 and before, and other people tried before us."

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Debt: No it's not all fault of the bankers

POPULAR wisdom is that the financial crash 10 years ago was solely down to those who worked in the banking sector. Were it not for their reckless behaviour, everything would be fine and dandy, and we would all be basking in the joys of ever-growing living standards.

Certainly, the banking sector didn't cover itself in glory, but we kid ourselves if we think it was anything more than a bit-part player in the problems of the past decade. The real cause of the crash was debt. Ridiculous amounts of it. Both government and personal.

National debt more than doubled between 2005-2010. Record "investment" in health care often meant shiny new buildings leased from private companies under the PFI initiative – more debt.

Then there were the new NHS admin bodies with fancy names like "Beacon" and "Crystal", each with their own corporate logos, offices and PR teams. But then there was the even more vexed issue of personal debt. For every reckless loan doled out by the panto villains in the banks, there was also a misguided borrower. Did anybody really think a 115 per cent mortgage at five times their salary would end in anything but tears?

Blaming bankers is an alluring argument, particularly for politicians. After all, they are hardly going to say it was their fault. And blaming the general public tends not to go down terribly well either. Pointing the finger at people who are hard to love at the best of times is always going to be the easy option. The problem is that they have learned nothing.

Today, government debt is at an all-time high. For all the talk of "austerity", it is still spending more than is coming in. This cannot go on forever.

At the same time, UK personal debt stands at £1.6 billion, about what it was before the last crash.

Experts are particularly concerned about PCP car purchases. Take a look at all those shiny new 4x4s you see every day. How many have been paid for? About 14 per cent. Nearly nine out of 10 new cars are bought on the never-never. And don't get me started on payday loans and "rent-to-buy" stores.

We have become a want-it-now, throw-away society, where saving to buy things and making them last is seen as old-fashioned. It may not be palatable, but we have got to accept that not everyone can have a new car, flat-screen television, computer or smart phone. If we don't live within our means, another crash is inevitable. The only question is who we blame next time.

Film-makers not letting facts spoil a good story



You can take our lives, but not our freedom...to paint our faces blue, for the movie



W1A actress Sarah Parish, proving that the most basic slapstick comedy still works



Jamie Oliver's spat with Gordon Ramsey, about the size of their families has hit the headlines

Dramatic changes as history repeats itself

THE great writer Robert Harris says there is nothing worse than a screen or stage adaptation of a book sticking too closely to the plot and becoming "stilted" as a result. Actually, I can think of something worse. It is scriptwriters and producers altering historical facts.

THERE is no evidence, for example, that Queen Victoria's courtiers Lord Alfred Paget and Edward Drummond were gay, let alone had an affair. Indeed, Paget fathered 14 children which suggests he had a passing interest in heterosexuality. Yet in Victoria (ITV), Paget and Drummond are lovers. Writer Daisy Goodwin says she has been "creative" in her interpretation of history and "some people might get very cross with me." Only the sort of people who get cross at movies suggesting the Yanks retrieved the Nazi's Enigma code machine (U-571) or that William Wallace painted his face blue (Braveheart). These days, people get their history from television and movies. The least they can expect is accuracy.

THERE'S a running joke in the satirical comedy W1A (BBC1) about the BBC's digital subtitle service which can neither get things right nor be switched off, and which recently announced a show starring the popular pianist Jews Holland. But it's hard to satirise the Beeb's real subtitle service. It was rubbish when it was launched just in time for the Charles and Di wedding in 1981 and remains rubbish to this day. A few days ago I switched on the Beeb's mid-day weather forecast. The subtitles began: "It was a grey staff are some of it this morning" and

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



went on to warn of "one or two Mac showers." In Scotland, presumably.

SOME say W1A has lost its spark and perhaps there is a natural limit to the number of buzzword jokes viewers will accept. Yet it still has some great gags. The moment the tall, chiselled and perfectly poised Anna (Sarah Parish) walked into the glass wall and knocked herself out was one of the best TV slapstick moments since Friends' Joey punched Ross in Central Perk.

RESIDENTS of Coseley in the West Midlands have called in their MP Pat McFadden because they are plagued with badgers which dig up their gardens and even damage house foundations. It's a tricky one for any politician because badgers are a protected species whose only serious enemy is the motor car. A friend was driving home the other night and paused in a farm lane to let one baby badger cross the road, followed by another, and another. There were eight of them. They are adding to a UK badger population estimated at 485,000 which is an 80 per cent increase since the 1980s. Princess Anne famously declared that there would be a good case for culling badgers even if there was no link to bovine TB.

THERE is, if we believe the tabloids, some friction between TV cooks Jamie Oliver and Gordon Ramsay over the size of their families. Oliver has five kids, Ramsay four. I am surprised, in an age of rocketing world population, climate change and loss of habitat, that anyone draws attention to their own fecundity. There you are, dutifully dividing your household waste into three different bins each week in order to save the planet. If the couple next door have ten kids, you must ask yourself, what's the point?

YET another email this week alleges that if you support Brexit you're right-wing. Can I advise you to have a look at Jeremy Corbyn's record from 1975 of voting against the EU and all its works? And he's right-wing, is he?

MEANWHILE, still in Europe, the death is announced of Victorino Martin, 88, the greatest bull breeder in Spain. His beasts, the victorinos, were famed for their unpredictability in the ring. It may be that some of your hard-earned taxes are supporting bullfighting, via the EU's Common Agricultural Policy. As with so many EU affairs, it's not easy to find where the money went but a report by Green Party MPs four years ago reckoned about £103 million a year was used to subsidise the bullfighting industry. Another good reason for leaving. Hey, maybe we could spend the bullfighting money on the NHS.

TALKING POINT

Educating drivers to park their car safely

There has been so much in the Press. not just lately, but for months, years now – parents parking outside schools.

It's amazing how signs and double yellow lines are totally ignored in the panic to get their children to school on time. Get up a bit earlier and park in a safe (and legal) spot or, if possible walk to school, surely the better option as you can guarantee your young ones get some exercise. With all the problems these days with child obesity surely – if feasible – that is the best option.

Another problem with this inconsiderate parking is the knock-on, pavement parking, cars 'dumped' half on and half off the pavement. Maybe they think they are being clever avoiding double parking but this just causes problems for other mums. Try getting a buggy past the parked car, not enough room on what is left of the pavement which means the mum has to bump the buggy down on to the road and take her chances with the traffic. Not very safe.

This month is Walk to School Month which aims to promote healthy living, reduce levels of traffic and make roads safer for all. Good idea – let us just hope parents go along with it. Warning – careless parking is putting children's lives at risk, including your own. Those 'drive carefully' near school signs are there for everybody, so heed the warning.

And while we are talking about ignoring signs it is not just the parents who should take the blame. Driving near schools there is always plenty of notice that pupils will be in the vicinity, possibly crossing the road, and not all areas are these days lucky enough to have a crossing warden. Pupils should not have to take their lives in their hands because of motorists speeding along. Village roads are sometimes the worst with blind bends and narrow streets. Not the place where boy racers should be showing off. In fact that applies to all streets!

Just imagine if you were that driver how you would feel if something happened. Showing off could end with you in court or having to live with what you have done for the rest of your life. Think before you put your foot down. You might think it is clever but these pupils are somebody's son, daughter, brother, sister etc and you could destroy a family for ever.

Always remember that those few minutes you may save by dumping cars on pavement, parking illegally, or speeding by a school could mean a lifetime of misery for a family if an accident happens. Heed the signs – kill your speed not the child.

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BETTA
BUILDINGS

Impressed by town's bright new museum

HAVING attended the official opening, congratulations to Dudley Regeneration and Enterprise for a very successful execution of their mission to relocate Dudley Museum.

While my doubts about parking and refreshments remain, the offering at the newly-located museum shows a very well balanced and engaging treatment that should provide something for all tastes.

They've played to the borough's strengths, ie geology and the castle/

medieval history – and the time-trail approach is logical and informative.

There are plenty of breakout areas for activities with children to help interpret the displays.

I liked the focus on Sir Frank Brangwyn's work – focusing on one artist at a time in a discrete space is much more fulfilling than an array of random artists from different eras.

The key to continued success will be the temporary exhibitions they put on, which will bring back those who may

feel they've 'done' the place after one visit.

Well done for investing in bright lighting and new cabinets – the place feels fresh, new and welcoming. The interpretive panels are clear and concise throughout.

Undoubtedly the key target market is schools, which should be suitably impressed with the museum as a high quality local resource for their studies.

MARTIN JONES
Sedgley

Mogg the man of the moment

OUR Prime Minister needs to take a leaf out of Harold Macmillan's book, when he sacked six cabinet ministers in what became known, our version, as the 'night of the long knives'. She needs to remove Philip Hammond, Amber Rudd and any in the cabinet who are committed EU remainers.

Boris Johnson should become Home Secretary and bring in Jacob Rees-Mogg as Foreign Secretary and young MPs from the back benches so they can all sing off the same hymn sheet.

Jacob Rees-Mogg knows all about British history, with upper-class mannerism and accent to boot. His traditionalist views, plus his humorous speeches, would have the Americans eating out of his hands and other countries fawning over him.

Jacob Rees-Mogg could become the greatest asset in these troubled times, so I call upon the Prime Minister to bring him into the cabinet as soon as possible.

MR R F GOODALL
Stourbridge

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
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Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL

dudley.chron@
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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Code of Practice: Our policy is to correct errors as soon as we can. The Chronicles adhere to the Editors' Code of Practice, which can be seen at www.ipso.co.uk. If you are unhappy with the accuracy of a story, write to The Editor, Chronicles, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Crackpot plan for borough's refuse

I was somewhat dismayed to read that Dudley Council are considering relocating the refuse tip which is now in Stourbridge to another place in the borough.

This is after having ruled out locating it at the Leys in Brockmoor.

The mind boggles about this decision when you consider how this council have severely cut budgets to the bone and have to save millions of pounds. Charitable trusts have had budgets reduced to zero.

Can you just imagine how much a new tip would cost to set up? All this when the surplus ground is already there at the existing tip.

It makes one wonder which councillors' dream up these crackpot schemes.

BOB WHITEHOUSE
Kingswinford

Thanks for great show, a magical night out

MAY I take this opportunity to thank the Quarry Bank Musical Theatre Youth Society for their performance of Les Misérables on Friday, September 22.

Everyone from the cast, who gave outstanding performances, to the orchestra and the people who showed us to our seats, all were brilliant.

A standing ovation was a fitting tribute to an awe-inspiring production.

My own granddaughters took part, Kersten and Connie, and though I am biased, they were truly wonderful and brought a tear to my eye.

It was truly magical and thanks to you all who took any part in this production.

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The Fizzogs: comedy – Deb Nichols, Sue Hawkins and Jacky Fellows as best known as internet hit the Dancing Grannies



Dave Heeley: marathons and charity – Blind Dave's exploits include seven marathons in seven days on seven continents



Geoff Townsend: Pottery – acclaimed potter who has also taught his skills



Tanya Raabe-Webber: artist – challenges notions of identity with her portraits



David Tristram: playwright – film and playwright who helped create the comical character Doreen, as played by Gill Jordan

Bringing on brightest and best

ANOTHER batch of names has been revealed in the hunt to find the 100 most talented and skilled Masters from the Black Country.

Creative Black Country, which set out to identify the 100 Masters, is trickling out the names of those who made the list. The first names were revealed last month and here are some more nominated by the people of the Black Country.

For several months members of the pub-



lic have been naming people they know who are 'brilliant at what they do'. The year-long regional campaign is aimed at inspiring and

offering people a fresh perspective about the strengths, skills, talent and expertise surfacing from their locality and community. Hundreds of nominations were submitted for the June 30 deadline and now the 100 Masters list has been compiled.

The list ranges from award-winning authors, sought-after designers, green-fingered gardeners, globe-trotting art directors, engineers, athletes, crafts people, entrepreneurs, brewers, dancers, artists, poets and community ambassadors, among others, representing extraordinary talent from the Black Country.

The shortlisted Masters were chosen via a panel selection process and come from a breadth of backgrounds, ages and areas of the region.

Named in the first 20 masters were, super-model Erin O'Connor, artist Elizabeth Ilsley, film-maker Drew Roper and Willard Wigan who creates artworks in the eye of the needle.

Creative Black Country also commissioned the Funny Things comedy festival which is running from October 23 until November 5 at some 16 Wolverhampton venues.

Project Co-ordinator, Liam Smyth, from the

Arts Council England funded group Creative Black Country said the Black Country was forged by skilled craftspeople.

He said: "It was through their craftsmanship and diligence that the region became renowned as the industrial heartland of the UK. 100 Masters is an arts campaign to identify contemporary skilled people from the Black Country and help inspire future talent."

Here we picture some of the latest names of candidates from Dudley and surrounding areas.

Details on www.100masters.co.uk website.

Advertisement

My life-changer

No pain and no more multiple failing teeth | Speech now normal and perfectly clear | Stomach problems over and diet good

WHEN former university mental health lecturer Roy Philpott recognised involuntary changes in his social behaviour, he knew he needed help – and quickly.

"Below the radar," he says, "things were happening to my teeth in my early-60s and by the time I was 70, problems were visible and very acute."

But the issues were not just affecting his oral health. Studies of the mysterious collaborations between our bodies and minds have established medical links between failing teeth and mental wellbeing.

In Roy's case invasive gum disease had challenged his enthusiastic approach to retirement and not least his passion in working for the Guide Dogs charity.

A public speaker for the charity, he became aware of a "terrible self-consciousness" doing fundraising events.

Symptoms masked

"My normally clear speaking voice began to change and people were asking me to repeat what I'd said. On reflection, I was probably mumbling. Another strange thing for me was that I'd noticed I no longer smiled," he says.

During a period of three years he suffered numerous gum infections as the insidious disease saw him lose more and more teeth. "I'm a Black Country lad and typically Black Country folk cope and get on with things and that's just what I did," he adds.

When antibiotics failed to work he turned to alternative therapies and for a couple of years herbal prescriptions appeared to help.

However, in 2010, Roy recalls what he describes as a "turning point" in a downwards spiral that ultimately affected his ability to eat properly, his digestive system and social engagement. On holiday

in Scotland, Roy developed Bell's palsy, a partial paralysis of the face. "Treatment involved the prescription of steroids," he explains.

"Suddenly, all the problems with my teeth appeared to disappear, but of course

what really was happening, symptoms were being masked by the medication and the infection was still in the roots of my teeth. I thought it had gone, but it hadn't."

In less than a decade, Roy had lost more than 16 teeth and his diet had changed



Roy with his beloved Vonnie – the adopted labradoodle

dramatically. Embarrassing gaps meant he was able to chew on only one side and his healthy vegetarian diet, including his favourite apples, celery and grapes, was limited to soft food choices.

"My gums hurt, food impacted between my remaining teeth resulting in sideways pressure and more loosening, and I had to make conscious decisions not to stay in."

"There was no Pizza Hut for me and even a simple piece of toast I had to cut into small pieces. I was no longer really chewing food, just swallowing it and was experiencing stomach problems."

"I'd be chewing and a tooth would just fall out . . . I was not sleeping, had a partial denture I couldn't get on with and all I could think of was 'what on earth am I going to do?' I was desperate," he says.

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Inspired by testimonials published in his local weekly newspaper, he sought help with Steven Burchell DipCDT RCS(Eng), principal of both North Street Dental and Implant Clinic and the Denture Clinic. "What an eye-opener!"

"He spent an hour with me on my first consultation," says Roy. Treatment involved the placing of four upper and four lower implants to secure over-dentures.

"Totally secure, hugely functional and natural looking – we were able to help Roy return to the spontaneous lifestyle he enjoyed before his troubles set in," says Steven.

Predictably reassuring

Roy's patient journey

My experience with Steven and his team was the best and getting the implants is money well spent. You need to be committed to the process, but the end results are well worth it.

– Roy Philpott

Other testimonials

Steven's demeanour and attitude to it all gave me the confidence and assurance that they could resolve my problem. Knowing that Owain was going to do the surgery was great.

– Norma Aston

When I first saw my teeth I thought they looked just like my real teeth. My husband couldn't believe they were so good. From start to finish it took 14 weeks, but it was worth the wait.

– Viki Ball

Life with Guide Dogs

GUIDE Dogs puppy walkers Roy and wife, Sue, are committed to changing lives in their work for the charity.

For more than seven years they have been the "foster parents" of puppies which later became fully trained guide dogs. Currently, the couple from Dudley, have a beautiful labradoodle – Vonnie – the "diva of the house," says Sue.

Vonnies, who suffered retina damage in an accident, had her guide dog career cut short, but was adopted by the Philpotts. Roy and Sue were family to Dudley, the celebrity labrador puppy who was sponsored by the mayor's charity. The practice has also supported Guide Dogs.

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Call to be proud of past while forging the future



Political leaders from different parties meet students at the launch of the borough community vision at Coronation Gardens

POLITICIANS have united to urge residents and organisations to get involved in 'forging' a bright future for Dudley.

The Dudley Community Vision has been launched to try to 'define a clear direction for the borough'.

At the launch event, chiefs hailed Dudley's place as the historic capital of the Black Country and urged people to be 'proud of our past' and encouraged them to help in 'forging our future'.

Dudley Council leader Patrick Harley said: "We have so much to be proud of in Dudley borough."

"No matter what the political landscape of the borough is at any time, we need to have a clear vision for our community which remains consistent as we look to ensure Dudley borough is a great place to live, work and play."

Labour group leader Pete Lowe said: "We want this piece of work to engage with people on the street, workers from the voluntary sector, faith net-

works, young people, our emergency services and the business community."

UKIP group leader Paul Brothwood said: "Setting a vision for Dudley borough, which all of our 318,000 residents can truly be part of, will be a big step in the right direction."

"Dudley borough is the historic capital of the Black Country and by working together we can shout loud and proud about the great attributes the borough has to offer."

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"Nothing was too much trouble" **Doreen Coley - Hayley Green**



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Charity windfall thanks to staff's gruelling efforts



Alison Pugh of BUDS, receives the cheque from staff
TWO charities have received a windfall, thanks to the fundraising efforts of staff at Solvay Oldbury who recently completed a gruelling 24-mile trek, incorporating more than 5,200ft of climbing, to conquer the Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge.

In just under 12 hours, a 24-member team of Solvay staff, and their family and friends, climbed the three highest peaks in the Yorkshire Dales – Pen-Y-Ghent, Wharfedale and Ingleborough – to raise £6,000 for Cancer Research UK and BUDS (Better Understanding of Dementia for Sandwell).

Alison Pugh, General Manager of BUDS, recently visited Solvay Oldbury to receive a cheque from the Solvay team, which had also boosted its fundraising achievements with donations made via the charity box in Solvay's canteen and a collection box on the site.

Fantastic

A cheque was also recently presented to Victoria Roberts, local fundraising manager at Cancer Research UK.

Vic Walters, a member of the Solvay team that completed the challenge, said: "Conquering the Yorkshire Three Peaks was a fantastic experience, made all the better by our efforts raising money for two incredibly worthy causes."

"We are very grateful to everyone who supported our efforts, especially those who made donations."

Following the Three Peaks Challenge, Alison Pugh, General Manager of BUDS, was recently presented with a cheque by Solvay Oldbury staff.

Stars back video firm's bear concert spectacle

A-LIST stars Ricky Gervais, Joanna Lumley and Peter Egan have stepped up in support of a Stourbridge production company's one-off unique charity show.

Keyboards supremo Rick Wakeman and international artist Maria Rud are starring in the Over the Moon show, arranged by Stourbridge-based Base Video Productions.

Gervais, Lumley and Egan have taken part in a new video urging people to support the Over the Moon show which takes place at the spectacular Queen's House in Greenwich, London, on December 10.

Projected

Comedian Gervais and actress Lumley, in the 45-second footage, say how they have been asked by Egan, who is the UK Ambassador for charity Animals Asia, to tell people about the event and the cause it is raising money for. The film then cuts to a brief performance by Wakeman on the keyboards.

The former Yes musician's compositions will be translated into live artworks by Rud, who will paint onto a lightbox, her creations then projected onto the building, which will become a spectacular canvas for the evening.

The Over the Moon set will be a blend of classic Wakeman material with new compositions written especially for the event. On stage with Rick will be his son Adam, percussionist Ed Scull and leading London vocal ensemble the English Chamber Choir. The event will be in 'promenade' format, allowing the audience to view the projection from different angles.

The pioneering show is being arranged by Base Video Production which was founded by Andy Dingley and Warren Evans and is based in Rufford Road.

The company focuses on live event and TV production inside the UK and worldwide with their studio complex winning a House of Commons award for best venue in 2014.

Proceeds will be donated to wildlife charity Animals Asia, which campaigns to end the bear bile trade, where thousands of 'moon bears' are locked up in cages with bile extracted from their gallbladder for medicines.

Andy said: "Warren and I are very excited to be involved in such a unique and ambitious project, and to support a fantastic cause. Base Video Production have been involved from the outset, and it's rewarding to see the project come to fruition."

Queen's House was designed by Inigo Jones in 1616 for King James I's wife, Anne of Denmark. Tickets are £32 for standard or £84 VIP. For more details visit soundandvisionlive.com



Ricky Gervais – support



Maria Rud will create images live to music projected on the historic building



Rick Wakeman has written music



Andy Dingley – ambitious project



Joanna Lumley – video

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22nd October



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'Tidy' travellers win praise from MP

THEY are often chastised for leaving piles of rubbish wherever they go but one group of travellers has been praised for mowing the grass at a site illegally occupied.

The group of Scandinavian travellers prompted concerns from council bosses when they set up on a football pitch off Lister Road in Dudley earlier this year. But officers from the authority were stunned when they found a member of the group busy with a lawn mower during a site visit.

The group in around 18 caravans spent a week at the site in May. They are also tidied away rubbish before they left.

Dudley South MP Mike Wood made the revelation during a House of Commons debate on illegal traveller encampments

in which MPs discussed the need for more powers to remove travellers from playing fields and parks. He told MPs: "Some of those camps, although unauthorised, have caused very little damage or disruption.

Toilets

"One group of travellers from Scandinavia tidied up after themselves, mowed the grass, and probably left the pitch in a better condition than that in which they had found it."

Mr Wood later added: "I think we can say that this particular group of travellers were fairly unusual in that they called the council and asked for Portakabin toilets when they first arrived. They tidied up the entire site

before they left and one of them mowed the grass. If every group of travellers was like them then I don't think we would have any problems."

Currently police powers (under Section 61 and 62a of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act), allow the removal of trespassers who cause criminal damage or engage in abusive and intimidating behaviour, or have six or more vehicles on land. Police can seize vehicles.

Mr Wood said: "Police often seem to consider it inappropriate or unlawful to use section 61 powers because of the lack of welfare assessments and the needs of the children are likely to be applied to any such new powers."



Travellers set up on a football pitch off Lister Road in Dudley but didn't leave a costly mess for taxpayers

Cleaning up camps costs taxpayers £150,000

DUDLEY Council has spent more than £150,000 over the last three summers cleaning up the mess left behind by illegal traveller camps.

Conservative MP Mike Wood said illegal camps in his Dudley South constituency had left the authority with the huge bill, as he called for clearer Government guidance on how police and councils can use powers to move on travellers.

His concern is shared by Dudley North Labour MP Ian Austin, who has described the mess left by the transient

land occupiers as 'completely unacceptable'.

Their comments came as the Government's Communities Minister Alok Sharma announced a review into the effectiveness of laws designed to tackle illegal camps set up by travellers and gypsies.

Speaking during a House of Commons debate on the issue, Mr Wood said: "There have been illegal incursions in areas including Netherton, Woodside, Wordsley and Kingswinford.

"There has been defecation and urination on playing pitches and children's playing areas.

Impact

"While the impact of that is, of course, felt most keenly by residents in the immediate area, the cost of dealing with it – in terms of enforcement and clearing up – is felt by the whole borough and has amounted to more than £150,000."

Mr Wood added that while he supported giving the police new powers to deal with illegal traveller camps, there needed to be greater clarity on how existing powers were being used.

Labour MP Ian Austin said: "I want the council and the police to be able to deal with such sites much more quickly. I also want the council to take much stronger measures to prevent them from being occupied in the first place."

Mr Austin urged MPs to listen to proposals from West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson, who has called for powers enabling local authorities to direct groups of travellers to transit sites outside of their administrative borders.

"It is my job to speak up for people in Dudley who have been affected by these camps," said Mr Austin.



Mike Wood MP – 'greater clarity' is needed in dealing with illegal occupations



Ian Austin MP – mess is 'completely unacceptable'

"What people in Dudley have had to put up with this summer, as in previous years, is completely and utterly unacceptable, and I want tougher and swifter action to deal with them, as well as measures that prevent travellers getting on to local parks and community facilities in the first place."

"I also want the Government to look at the proposals of David Jamieson, the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner who has done a huge amount of work on these issues."

Mr Austin asked Mr Sharma to meet Mr Jamieson and West Midlands MPs to discuss the impact of these issues in the region.

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Museum actor tells the tale of Tipton funeral director's life

By David Banner

UNLESS you're rich or famous the likelihood of an actor taking on your character is slim.

But for one Black Country funeral director that's exactly what is happening.

Arthur Walters, who ran the renowned A&A Walters funeral directors, has been recognised by the Black Country Living Museum for his work. The Tipton man is being portrayed as a character at the museum as part of an ongoing search for the real stories and real people of the Black Country.

Great-granddaughter Rachel Hodges said: "It is an honour to have one of my recent ancestors recognised in such a way."

Proud

"I never knew Arthur as he died in 1945, aged 75, long before I was born. It feels great, it's very exciting and I feel really proud because not only was he a local businessman he was also a philanthropist. He did a lot to help the poor in the community and to try and keep costs of funerals lower."

"He accepted payments in rabbits and pheasants. His son was my grandfather and I remember him saying people came in with rabbit and pheasants to pay the last bit of a funeral payment."

Back in May the museum got in touch with the family to propose doing something with their history. Learning team manager Pat York, responsible for researching and putting together the characters, came across the A&A



Arthur Walters' great grand-daughter Rachel Hodges with Nigel Westwood-Burgess, in the period costume which he wears as part of his role at the museum

Walters website which contained extensive history about the family.

The museum then got in touch with great-granddaughter Rachel and together they developed a character with an outfit, background notes and appropriate objects to be portrayed at the museum, initially to school groups. Dressed in full mourning attire appropriate for the period, which is all black, Nigel Westwood-Burgess is portraying Arthur Walter as a young man of the

late Victorian and early Edwardian era.

His character carries mourning jewellery to portray how Victorians approached death and also period 'memorial cards' which were very popular in the Victorian era and handed out at funerals as keepsakes.

Mr Westwood-Burgess, 31, learning assistant and activity demonstrator, said: "I was delighted to meet the descendant of Arthur Walters, the



Seen left, a picture of Arthur Walters and wife Susan on their 50th wedding anniversary in 1944, and right Arthur's son Ernest aged 17 in 1929. Courtesy of BCLM.

character who I'm currently playing. It was the first time Rachel saw me in costume, and the first time the character had been used for visitors, and I was pleasantly surprised by visitors' interest.

"The school groups I was guiding that day had lots of questions to ask about him."

"I thoroughly enjoyed telling them the history of such an interesting and charitable man, who was once a

central pillar of his community. It's a satisfying part of my job that I am able to portray these characters and keep these stories alive, and tell the story of a Black Country family-run business that is still going from strength to strength 167 years on."

The museum has put focus on characters that don't currently have a specific building and which portray real lives and stories of people who once lived in the Black Country.

Fly-tip fines not wielded by councils

ONLY two councils in the Black Country and Staffordshire used strict new powers aimed at clamping down on fly-tipping in the first year they were available, figures show.

Across the UK local authorities have collected £750,000 in fines from illegal waste dumping since new Government legislation was introduced in May 2016.

But more than two-fifths of England's councils did not issue a single fine up until May this year, according to figures from a Freedom of Information request.

Those councils include Sandwell. Wolverhampton Council issued nine fines totalling £4,044 over the period, while Dudley Council brought in £360 from three fines.

Walsall Council did not respond to the data request. The figures come despite the region being blighted by fly-tipping, with 32,569 reports of dumped waste in the West Midlands last year.

The new law enables councils to issue on-the-spot penalty notices of up to £400 for offences.

Councillor Karen Shakespeare, Dudley Council's environment chief, said the authority was always looking to use new enforcement powers to clampdown on the scourge of fly-tipping.

"It costs the council a fortune, and 60 per cent of it relates to household waste," she said.

Scottish rockers in pub venue gig

SCOTTISH rockers Catholic Action are on tour with their new album next month.

They will be stopping at Birmingham's The Actress and Bishop on November 10. Doors open at 7.30pm.

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Ashley gets his skates on to help youngsters dance



Diversity's Ashley Banjo hosted a dance workshop ahead of Disney On Ice coming to Birmingham. Pic: Simon Hadley.

MAGIC, sparkle and a little pixie dust were sprinkled across youngsters from the county who twisted and twirled with dance star Ashley Banjo.

The frontman of Diversity, who shot to fame after winning Britain's Got Talent in 2009, got little stars of the future moving at a special Disney-themed workshop.

Pupils from Oldbury's Lightwoods Primary School joined the dancing star at a Birmingham studio for the one-off workshop ahead of Disney on Ice shows, which started in the city yesterday, Wednesday.

Youngsters crafted stories and choreography as they delved into the wonderful world of Disney.

Ashley, aged 29, said: "It's great to be involved in Disney On Ice's Fit to Dance programme as it inspires children to get creative while being active

and having fun. Their imagination never ceases to amaze me, that's why the workshops were so good."

Inspired by timeless Disney classics, children created their own stories before performing with a little help from the Diversity dancer and a Disney on Ice cast member. Disney A-listers Mickey Mouse and Minnie Mouse even stopped by to surprise the youngsters to view their performances. Passport to Adventure is being staged at Arena Birmingham until October 29.

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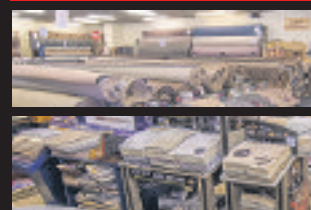
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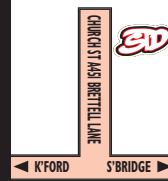


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Doble delight for Amy in the Strictly ballroom



Amy and Brian's routine on Strictly Come Dancing on Saturday proved a hit and keeps them in the competition

BLACK Country dancer Amy Dowden and her celebrity partner Brian Conley waltzed through to the next round of Strictly Come Dancing at the weekend.

The 26-year-old from Dudley performed the Paso Doble to I Believe In A Thing Called Love by The Darkness with the comic actor and former Birmingham panto star on Saturday night.

The pair's performance kept them out of the bottom two in the public vote, thereby sparing them another

the dance-off to stay in the competition.

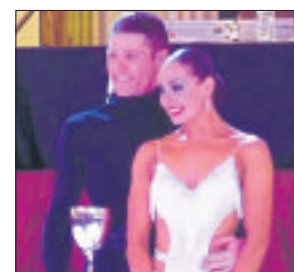
Judge Bruno Tonioli had dubbed the performance 'punko doble'.

Miss Dowden runs an academy called Art in Motion, which runs classes in Tipton, Wombourne and Great Barr.

She moved from Caerphilly in Wales six years ago to Dudley, where she lives with partner Ben Jones in Oakham.

Miss Dowden also teaches at Hallfield School in Edgbaston.

Strictly Come Dancing continues on Saturday at 6.35pm.



Amy with pro dance partner Ben Jones



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Mysterious and spooky, they're altogether ooky

AN ALL-STAR cast brings a new production of The Addams Family to Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre this week

The show stars Samantha Womack as Morticia Addams, Les Dennis as Uncle Fester and Carrie Hope Fletcher as Wednesday Addams until Saturday.

Everyone's favourite ooky kooky family are on stage in the spectacular musical comedy from the writers of hit musical Jersey Boys, with music and lyrics by Andrew Lipa.

Wednesday Addams, the princess of darkness, is all grown up and has a shocking secret that only Gomez knows. She's fallen in love with a nice young man from a respectable family.

With his cherished Morticia in the dark will Gomez manage to keep his daughter's secret until the two families meet? Uncle Fester, Lurch, Pugsley and more will play out a heart-warming story of love, family and friendship... with a twist.

Sing

Social media star Carrie Hope Fletcher has previously featured in numerous musicals, including Les Misérables, Mary Poppins and Chitty Chitty Bang Bang at Birmingham Hippodrome.

Music was always part of her life and her brother Tom Fletcher is the bespectacled singer and guitarist in pop group McFly.

"We always had some kind of musical playing in the background, and me and my brother would sing along in the car. I remember loving Beauty and the Beast on stage - all the girls wanted to be Belle," she said Carrie. "I could hide behind a character and become a different person. I was actually quite shy



Creepy and kooky - The Addams Family cast with Carrie Hope second from left

at school - I took a back seat, and I was terrified to put my hand up in class - but I was first in line for school plays.

"Acting can be escapism, a way of getting away from your own situation and insecurities. Someone asked me whether it's hard performing if I've had a bad day or I'm stressed out, but actually that's the best time to go play a character."

She enjoys the morbid mirth of The Addams Family, adding: "I grew up - but I was first in line for school plays. 'Acting can be escapism, a way of getting away from your own situation and insecurities. Someone asked me whether it's hard performing if I've had a bad day or I'm stressed out, but actually that's the best time to go play a character.'"

"I didn't realise there was an Addams Family musical until about four years ago. Then when I heard about the UK tour I said to my agent 'Please, please, I have to do this'."



A scene from the musical as 'Cilla' sings while Bobby, left, watches on from the dancefloor

Step Inside Love, this musical is a must see

Cilla - The Musical, New Alexandra Theatre

Anyone who had a heart could not fail to be moved by this new production. It's a warts and all story of the life of the legendary Cilla Black, one that she was happy for all to see.

And the audience at the New Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham just lapped it up. It is now just over two years since the beloved 1960s pop star died and Cilla - The Musical, is a spectacular and heart-warming musical adaptation of the critically-acclaimed ITV mini-series based on her early life.

The story was originally written for the 2014 series Cilla, in which she was brilliantly played by Sheridan Smith.

A tough act to follow but Kara Lily Hayworth, discovered by open audi-

REVIEW

By SUE ATTWATER

tion where she queued for four hours, fully inhabits the role and has a terrific voice. Not quite Cilla as it has a softer tone but the audience still loved it.

The story follows the extraordinary life of the ordinary teenage girl from Liverpool, Priscilla White, and her rocky, yet incredible, rise to fame. By the age of just 25 she was recognised as an international singing star. By 30 she had become Britain's favourite TV entertainer and went on to headline series' of Blind Date and Surprise Surprise.

The musical score of course included Cilla's greatest hits Anyone Who

Had a Heart, Alfie and Something Tells Me, alongside a backdrop of the legendary "Liverpool Sound" including the Beatles' Twist and Shout, and American influences like California Dreamin' by The Mamas and The Papas.

This is a show laying Cilla's personal life and the man who loved her and eventually managed her career, Bobby Willis played by Carl Au. It also shed light on the demons for Beatles manager Brian Epstein played by Andrew Lancel. They were the big influences in her life and in the musical.

The production is due at the Regent Theatre in Stoke-on-Trent from November 14-18.

It is altogether superb so get a ticket and Step Inside, Love - you won't regret it.

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Act now – competition is hotting up



Billy and Tom have a special bond



Persian girls Rose and Peaches



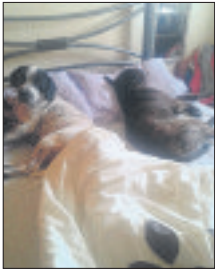
Ferret Marley loves chasing balls



Otis rests on cake stand



Flo is feeling hungry



Dog tired – Dodger and Tigs



Together – Buzz and Echo

Now for something a little bit different

AND still they flood in, a wealth of pet pictures and this week something a bit different – a ferret, ponies and guinea pigs.

Asking for food, cosying up together or posing with flowers they all have their own tale to tell. And we want to hear them. Keep those pictures coming in. It is going to be a difficult job for you readers to judge but we hope you are enjoying seeing the pictures!

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Our Chronicle judges are simply looking for interesting pictures. We will select 10 of our favourite pictures and then it is up to our readers to decide on the winner.

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Old vases are again fashionable with buyers

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES

with John Ridgway of Perry & Phillips



VASES have long been a very useful addition in terms of home design, able to bring a touch of colour or seasonal style to any room.

They are very affordable – unless you want fabulously expensive ones – and always available at good prices in the saleroom.

Vases have been around since the times of the ancient Greeks but those similar to the ones we use today, originally known as flower glasses, were around in the 1700s, although it wasn't until the Victorian era that they became popular and readily available.

They come in all sorts of shapes, styles, designs and sizes – and materials range from brass and silver to china and wood.

The Victorian vases tended to be very ornate, often featuring glorious floral patterns, and were produced by all the major manufacturers of the day including Royal Worcester and Royal Crown Derby.

Shapes changed in the 1920s and 1930s with the more streamlined designs of Art Deco and Art Nouveau

(although flower patterns were still right up there with Art Nouveau!) and by the forties vases had started to look a little more functional, although still stylish.

The fifties had its own unique elegance and this was mirrored in home decoration, including vases, and of course the 1960s saw everything become very brightly coloured.

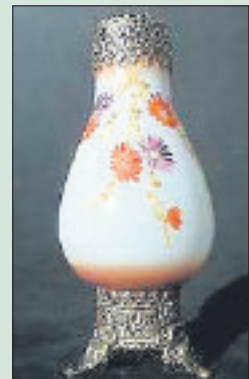
The seventies vases were both colourful and slightly wacky in both style and shape – and although they went right out of fashion in following decades

they are now popular once more.

Vases placed in the right position can alter the look of any room, whether filled with fresh or dried flowers or standing empty, and they always look good grouped together.

Because they will almost all have been used for practical purposes rather than display vases may well have suffered some minor damage over the years so check for cracks and chips before you buy.

- **Perry and Phillips hold valuation days, for sale items only, every Wednesday from 10am until 4pm.**
- **The next Perry and Phillips sale of antiques and collectables takes place at the Mill Street saleroom in Low Town, Bridgnorth, on Tuesday, December 5. Viewing will be during the weekend and on Monday and also from 10am on auction day.**
- **New sale bidders are advised to attend the saleroom early on auction day to register and be allocated a bidding number.**



Turning our children into matching mini-mes



It's not exactly a new trend...

WHEN I was about seven, I remember having an aran cardigan knitted by my mum.

It was cream, cabled, chunky, warm and matched perfectly the one she had knitted for my dad and for herself. It was a popular trend in the mid 1960s and we all wore them at the same time.

I followed a similar path as my son grew up, as a family we wore garments of matching colours rather than matching style and my husband and I still tone for special occasions.

I've given the family a theme for Christmas, my daughter in law is planning matching outfits for her and our granddaughter!

As with every fashion the trend returns, I wonder if it has ever been away, maybe just disguised in various different forms.

This newest of childrenswear trend appears with a modern twist entitled "Mini-Me".

Shops are selling miniature versions of their adult clothing, footwear and accessories, mostly specialised designs to suit the younger market.

No one wants to see plunging necklines and bodycon on children.

The beauty of the latest styling is that the

STYLE FOCUS

with Janet Timmis



adult version is very slightly different to the son or daughter version. Similar prints, negative colours, smaller or larger graphics but co-ordinating all the same.

Children are becoming fashion conscious at a much earlier age, aware of designers and high street retailers, an added expense and new headache for parents worldwide.

Celebrities

Celebrities such as Victoria Beckham, and Katie Holmes have strengthened this trend, regularly being photographed with their daughters wearing similar clothing.

The shops have reported a considerable increase in sales of young boys clothing with the photographic presence of the young Beckham boys and Rocco Ritchie in the latest designer clothing.

Dolce & Gabbana, Givenchy, Fendi, Gucci,

Kenzo, Chloe and Burberry have included "Mini-Me" in their ranges.

A young traditional Burberry trench selling for over £300, tiny Hunter wellies for over £30 and miniature Ugg boots for £100 plus. Selfridges in London reporting 80 per cent increase in sales of these children's versions of adult designer clothing.

The styling ranges from pretty and twee to smart power dressing and the high street is producing value garments in similar styles.

If you do not wish to match exactly then the trend also allows for styles based on normal adult clothing and accessories that are not normally seen in your children's wardrobe, Converse, leather biker jackets, Doc Martins, animal print, skinny jeans, Harrington jackets, faux fur, pinstripe and peep toe shoes.

There is plenty of choice, check out River Island, H&M childrenswear and the supermarkets also have amazing designs straight from the catwalk.

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Alex with the drone in Iceland



A stunning view of an icy bay



Alex and Ina with the drone which they affectionately call 'Gertrude'

Capturing frozen beauty of Iceland with Gertrude



A road in Iceland shot from above

TWO film-makers who juggle their business with jobs at the Grand Theatre in Wolverhampton certainly managed to capture some dramatic images and spectacular footage on a trip to Iceland.

Battling unpredictable and harsh weather, armed with a drone, Alex Hatfield and Ina Kromholz set off on an expedition to capture the 'raw beauty and natural spectacle of winter across Iceland like never before.'

The result is the film *Island*, the latest effort from the aerial specialists *Skies Untold*.

It begins above the Nordic country's Jökulsárlón glacial lagoon. The film then follows a journey across Iceland including breathtaking overhead shots of Seljalandsfoss and Brúarfoss waterfalls, the Vatnajökull glacier at Skaftafell, and the lighthouse at Arnar, built in 1918 and one of the oldest concrete structures of its kind in the country.

Along the way, the aerial photography and cinematography experts take viewers along deserted highways, swoop among smouldering geysers and halt for close-ups of a herd of wild horses.

By Diane Davies

Skies Untold was set up by drone pilot Alex Hatfield, who was born and raised in Wolverhampton and has been building multi-rotors in his spare time since 2010.

He met his partner, Ina Kromholz from Berlin, Germany, while she was studying for her Masters in graphic design at the University of Wolverhampton, and they both discovered a mutual passion for aerial cinematography.

Both aged 27, Alex and Ina work at Wolverhampton Grand as a stage technician and dresser respectively, while Ina also has her own jewellery business.

Unpredictable

Spending seven days in Iceland in March, the gruelling weather conditions caused some issues for the film-makers and their drone affectionately known as Gertrude. Alex said: "They really aren't joking when they say the weather is entirely unpredictable in Iceland! This made filming difficult and we weren't able to shoot a lot of the things we had planned prior to the trip. Due to this, a lot of the locations shot aren't the usual tourist spots."

"They are smaller things we just happened across and took advantage of whilst

driving the main A roads around the island. We stopped and filmed where and when we could, if the weather allowed.

"Furthermore, due to Iceland's latitude and ground make up, magnetic interference can prove to be problematic when flying drones. Gertrude has a digital compass which it uses to stabilise and orientate itself, and this would often fail, requiring sequences to be reshot or abandoned. However, we persevered throughout the shoot and I think the end results were more than worth the struggle."

Alex said: "On complex shoots where I need to concentrate entirely on flying, Ina operates the camera. There are two controllers, one operates the drone and the other controls the camera settings and direction independently. Ina is gifted with a cameray."

Camera operator and editor Ina said: "We have wanted to visit Iceland for some time. Seeing the it for the first time feels like stepping onto an alien planet that is still in the process of forming; the black sands, endless lava fields, jagged cliffs, waterfalls, glaciers and yellow green moss that carpets huge swathes of land. It feels raw and beautifully unfinished. What better place to film?"

Following the success of 'Island,' the duo's next project will see them undertake more coastal filming around the UK.

Plant burns bright with Carry Fire

ALBUMS

by Leon Burakowski

ROBERT Plant, the Black Country's Prince of Wails, returns with Carry Fire, his first album in three years.

It has to rate as one of his finest albums since the demise of Led Zeppelin as an ongoing project, sounding fresh but with echoes of former glories.

Surrounded by his expert ensemble of rock and folk musicians – The Sensational Shapeshifters – Plant kicks off with The May Queen, freewheeling acoustic guitar and a vibe close to Zep's Bron-Yr-Aur Stomp and Gallows Pole.

The lower register of the 69-year-old rock god's voice means he has never sounded more vulnerable, mellow and warmly mortal. This adds a poignant quality to the dustblown Season's Song and rolling elegiac Dance With You Tonight. There is a sense of foreboding on A Way With Words and Heaven Sent, the latter a song that Lane Del Ray would covet.

Carving Up The World, with its skiffle rhythm and nice blues licks, is a rocking riposte to Brexit and Trumpism, New World an anti-colonial sequel to Immigrant Song and Bones Of Saints rails against warmongers.

The world music element is brought to the fore on the title track with its North African and Spanish influences, both Moorish and very moreish. Plant duets with Chrissie Hynde on a psychedellic blues revamp of old rockabilly number Bluebirds Over The Mountain.



Robert Plant and the Shapeshifters sound fresh but also echo former glories

Plant brings his Shapeshifters for gigs at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on November 20 and Birmingham Symphony Hall on December 12.

On the cusp of the big time since their 2015 debut My Love Is Cool and a storming Glastonbury set last year, London indie outfit **Wolf Alice** have become the UK's premier alt-rock band.

Blending shoegaze guitar swirl with grungy hard rock, dream pop and even haunted folk, Visions Of A Life, second album from the four-piece fronted by Ellie Rowsell, matches the ferocity and energy of their live performances.

There are plenty of contrasts, such as the sweary riot grrrl blast of Yuk Foo (you can guess the sentiment) with the sweet yet steely vulnerability of Ellie's vocal on Planet Hunter.

Formidable Cool is a hard-hitting song about a date rape creep, the dark and claustrophobic Sky Musings use the fear of flying as a metaphor whilst Space & Time is a punk rocker for the mosh pits.

Don't Delete The Kisses is classic bitter-sweet Wolf Alice with half-spoken vocal and a potent chorus, and Beautiful Unconventional is a new indie anthem. Sadboy is a propulsive grower and St Purple & Green a slow burning ballad.

The psych-folk of After The Zero Hour and the title track, a rock epic with oriental feel, have a Led Zeppelin atmosphere.

Wolf Alice are in concert at Birmingham O2 Academy on November 16.

The Hawklords, featuring former Hawkwind members Harvey Bainbridge and Jerry Richards, are stuck in a timewarp of a 1970s future past on new album Six.

But the retro synths and space rock riffs have a certain strangeness and charm, despite some clunky clichéd lyrics. Prog rocking epics Nightside and Los Cavatina are the highlights.

Catch The Hawklords and their famous lightshow at Robin's Bilston 2 venue on November 12.

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Great time to start preparing for spring



WINTER may be on the way, but that doesn't mean its time to abandon the garden until spring.

There are many things that can be done to keep your green spaces looking tidy and welcoming – not to mention preparing gardens for spring.

The horticulture team at the Eden Project, an educational charity that aims to connect people with each other and the living world, has come up with 10 top tips for your garden during October:

1. Care for your lawn by raking or brushing leaves off the grass. Try collecting them in a leaf bag, which will turn them into useful leaf mould. You can also cut the grass for one last time this year. Make that last cut slightly higher to protect the lawn from winter frost.
2. Trim hedges so they are crisp and tidy for the winter.
3. October's the time for clearing up. Greenhouses, ponds, gutters and water butts may all need cleaning out, wooden garden furniture will need covering or storing for the winter and terracotta pots will need bringing inside.
4. Divide herbaceous perennials. Plant some back in the ground; take others to pot up and give away to friends in the spring.
5. In the veg patch plant garlic cloves with their pointed ends up, and spaced 10cm apart.
6. Plant bulbs for a colourful spring display. Try planting clumps of five or seven bulbs of the same variety through a border for a really effective display.
7. Plant out spring bedding and biennials, such as wall-flowers, for spring displays. Pots and hanging baskets can be planted with spring bedding, and teamed with bulbs, grasses, cyclamen and violas for a colourful and textural display.
8. 'Plant' prepared hyacinths in vases for winter scent and colour in the house.
9. Harvest pumpkins for eating as well as carving.
10. Enjoy the apple harvest! Don't forget to check out Eden's Harvest Festival, which includes apple pressing demonstrations, or your local apple day.

Act to cut your global footprint

HOUSEHOLDERS can do more to cut their global footprint, it has been claimed.

A green energy expert has warned householders not to be complacent after two positive stories about climate change.

Firstly scientists said that computer models showed the planet had warmed more slowly than previously predicted. Secondly the National Grid said Britain had had its greenest summer ever with almost 52 per cent of electricity generated by either nuclear or renewable forms of power between June 21 and September 22 this year, up from 48 per cent in the same period last year.

"This is very encouraging news," said Ron Fox of Noreus Ltd. "But although the world has gained more time, rapid reductions in emissions are still required to meet the goals set by the Paris agreement to limit warming of the earth to 1.5C above pre-industrial levels which the UK agreed to."

Ron said with homes producing more than a quarter of the UK's carbon emissions, the onus on reducing their carbon footprint has never been greater for householders. He said one of the easiest ways for residents to cut their carbon footprint was by insulating the loft, inside walls and the outside walls, a move which can cut energy bills by up to 45 per cent. He said the most efficient way was to use a spray foam because it fills all the cracks and crevices, keeps the attic at a constant temperature so cutting the risk of ice damage in the cold months, reduces the risk of mould and can create a quieter environment with its sound proofing.



Goldcrests could be back in gardens this winter

Cold winters are enticing goldcrests to our gardens

A COLD spell in late winter 2016/17 had birds flocking to garden feeders, including higher counts of Britain's smallest bird, the Goldcrest, according to British Trust for Ornithology's Garden Bird Feeding Survey.

Winter 2016/17 was generally mild and it was relatively quiet on garden feeders, but results from the GBFS found that more birds were making use of the supplementary food we put out during a cold snap in late January, early February.

One of the species coming to our feeders in the colder weather was the tiny Goldcrest. In fact, garden birdwatchers have recorded high numbers of Goldcrest in gardens over the last two winters, with counts in February 2017 35 per cent higher than the average for the previous five years.

Are we in store for another winter of Goldcrest sightings? So far it looks promising with high preliminary counts for September. Goldcrest numbers are severely affected by low winter temperatures, but the predominately mild win-

ter weather of recent years might have helped to boost numbers.

Goldcrest is an infrequent garden visitor and only seen in six per cent of gardens (average 1995 to 2017) during February/March, which is the peak time for garden sightings.

This tiny bird, which weighs a mere five to six grammes, favours conifer woodland and only tends to visit gardens in times of cold weather when natural food sources are harder to find. Being so small means that they expend a lot of energy keeping warm, so suet-based products provided at garden feeding stations can provide a lifeline.

Claire Boothby of BTO Garden BirdWatch said: "Putting bird food out in our gardens really can make the difference between life and death."

People are being urged to sign up as garden birdwatchers to feed into the BTO's long-term data and research on garden birds and other wildlife.

Email gbw@bto.org, visit www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/gbw, or call 01842 750050.

Tender loving care the key to creating new plants

Report by Hannah Stephenson

IF you're short of houseplants but don't want to fork out a fortune on new ones, BBC Gardeners' World presenter Alys Fowler says you can easily boost your stock through propagation.

"Think of spider plants with all those hanging baby spiders just waiting to touch a bit of soil and send down roots," she said.

"Other plants can easily be divided. Offsets, runners and suckers are another straightforward way of creating new plants."

But among the easiest ways to increase your stock is to divide plants.

Those which are suitable for this method include adiantum, aspidistra, calathea, maranta, chlorophytum and fittonia.

You can't divide plants which have a single stem, such as climbers, or those which have leaves that arise from a single stem.

"Dividing plants can offer them a new lease of life," says Alys. "If the older parts are in the middle, for instance, division will allow the young, healthier growth room to grow."

This is how you do it:

SPLIT THE PLANT

This is going to be messy if you do it inside! Spread out newspaper and have a sharp, clean knife to hand, along with clean plant pots which you want to transfer the divisions into, compost and a place to water the plants.

Remove the plant from its pot and lay it on its side. Aim to split it into two or three at most, as each new division needs shoots and roots and smaller pieces will have more trouble establishing themselves.

You may need to use a sharp knife to cut between the roots, although sometimes you can gently tease them apart. Aim to break as few roots as possible.

REPOT DIVISIONS

Once you have separated the sections, repot them into new pots and compost, gently sprinkling new compost around the roots, then water them in.

GIVE THEM TLC

Keep your divisions shaded until they perk up. Some may flop over initially, but they should recover. Don't overwater them or you may drown them. Give them a fine mist to help keep transpiration down. Take care to ensure that each division has equal proportions of roots to leaves. If you have more leaves, transplantation shock is likely.

TIMING IS KEY

Divide evergreen plants in spring, to give them plenty of recovery time. Divide flowering plants after they have bloomed and you can see new leaves growing.

Plant Love by Alys Fowler is published by Kyle Books, priced £18.99.



Alys Fowler tending to her plants. She has offered tips to boost plant stock through propagation



Splitting the plant is a key part of the process, says Alys



Plants need to be repotted into fresh compost

LET'S ALL GO CRAZY FOR TOM INSIDE

MUSIC + THEATRE + TV LISTINGS + PUZZLES

FANTASTIC CARVERY 7 DAYS A WEEK

They always say never judge a book by its cover so we decided to check out The Park Lane Tavern in Colley Gate, and I have to say what was on offer in there was a total surprise.

It serves a carvery option 7 days a week from midday which consists of a choice of 4 meats, turkey, beef, pork and gammon and accompanied by stuffing, Yorkshire puddings and up to 12 vegetables, topped off with what they call their "secret recipe gravy" known also as what mother used to make! All this for just £4.99 for a lunchtime meal or £5.99 evenings and Saturdays and £7.99 for Sunday lunch represents extremely good value by today's standards.

They also don't forget their mini diners with 'Kids Eat Free' Monday to Saturday between 3pm and 6pm and during school holidays it's All Day Monday to Saturday.

But it doesn't stop there they also have a full main menu consisting of the classic pub favourites such as steaks, mixed grills, burgers and fish and chips, where the fish would not be out of place in any issue of 'Moby Dick'. To finish is there very tempting dessert menu, that's if you have room after the size of meals you get at The Park Lane Tavern.

Then if that's not enough choice for you you can also choose for the breakfast which is served Friday, Saturday and Sunday 08.30am until 11.00am. Their breakfast is a buffet style 'All you can eat' with enough choice to satisfy any diner from eggs 2 ways, bacon, sausage, mushrooms, baked beans, hash browns, black pudding, grilled fresh tomatoes, toast & fried bread. There's even jam for your toast if you still not full after all that.

Half Price Monday

They also host special evenings like their 'Half Price Monday' which has



proven to be very popular, and why not, already reasonably priced selected main meals off their main menu (which includes steaks) at half price served between 5pm and 8pm every Monday. Also their psychic evenings where for £15 you get a reading from a medium and a carvery, for those believers amongst you that must be a bargain.

You get a very friendly feeling when you enter The Park Lane Tavern and that's mostly down to the staff. Happy

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WATCH IT IF YOU DARE!

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Oh, Tom! We are still Crazy For You

He never once thought about packing it in, though his mates told him he ought to. During his six wilderness years, Tom Chambers worked variously as a barman, pizza delivery guy, HGV driver and more. He took whatever work he could get because nobody wanted to give the fledgling actor a job.

So he recorded a video of himself tap dancing, showing off skills that few possess. And he sent it to 1,000 people - yes, 1,000. Two of them responded.

"I was lucky, one of those responses led to a TV audition."

The audition was for *Holby City* and that, in turn, led to an appearance on *Strictly Come Dancing*. For Tom, at least, the rest is history and he is now one of the biggest stars of the West End. Musical theatre adores the man who won the sixth series of *Strictly* with partner Camilla Dallerup.

"In this industry, you either have to have a screw loose or be slightly mad. Not giving up for that long and having that never-ending belief that you'll get there requires something a little different. Even now, I still can't quite believe what I'm doing."

"I tried for six years after drama school, I was a barman, pizza delivery, HGV driver... You name it. Then I did a tap dance and sent it out to 1,000 people and I got two responses. Everyone was telling me to quit. They were telling me to find another agent. At one point, I even signed up to be a fireman. But then the phone rang offering me a proper TV audition for six years. I took it and things have gone alright since that. But that's the thing, you're so lucky to get work in this industry. You only have to watch X Factor to realise what talents people have."

Tom is lining up with another *Strictly* winner, Caroline Flack, who is making her stage debut as 'Irene' in the national tour of *Crazy For You*. Tom plays her love interest, Bobby, and the show reaches Birmingham Hippodrome from Tuesday to October 28.

Best known to TV audiences for her star-turn on the popular BBC TV series *Strictly Come Dancing*, Flack won the 12th season of *Strictly* in 2014. She currently presents ITV's *Love Island* and her previous presenting credits include *I'm a Celebrity*... Get Me Out of Here *NOW!* and *The Xtra Factor*. She has also presented *The X Factor*. Prior to presenting, Caroline trained in musical theatre.

Tom created the role of Jerry Travers in the West End musical *Top Hat*, for which he was nominated for an Olivier Award for Best Actor in a Musical. He can currently be seen in the hit BBC drama *Casualty* and his other TV credits include *Holby City* and *Waterloo Road*. His recent stage credits include *Private Lives* and *White Christmas* in the West End.

They will be joined by Charlotte Wakefield in the role of Polly. Charlotte made her West End debut as Wendla in *Spring Awakening*, for which she was nominated for an Olivier Award. She played Maria in the critically acclaimed production of *The Sound of Music* at Regent's Park Open Air Theatre receiving nominations for Best Actress in a Musical at both the Evening Standard and Olivier Awards. Her other theatre credits include *Sophie*

'Pure enjoyment' - Tom and Charlotte in *Crazy For You*



in *Mamma Mia!* in the West End, *Truly Scrumptious* in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* and *Laurey* in *Oklahoma!*, both on national tour.

Tom says the production is enormous fun. "It's great to be working with Caroline again. I judged her on the *Strictly* tour after she won it in 2014. I didn't have to wag my finger at her and give her instructions, she was step perfect."

"This is her first musical. She's really purposeful. She didn't want the lead because it's her first one and she didn't want to jump in the deep end. But she's like a box of fireworks. You never what what colour it's going to be next."

Crazy For You is directed by The Watermill's Artistic Director, Paul Hart, with musical arrangements by Catherine Jayes (*The Color Purple*, Broadway). It is choreographed by Nathan M. Wright (*High Society*,

Old Vic) and is designed by Diego Pitarch (*The Addams Family*).

It has music and lyrics by George Gershwin and Ira Gershwin and a book by Ken Ludwig. It was inspired by material by Guy Bolton and John McGowan and was originally produced on Broadway by Roger Horchow and Elizabeth Williams.

Tom says: "Everything is about the casting, get that right and it's half done. In this show, you almost don't know where to look. There's something unique about this show compared to the originals. There's no orchestra or pit, the music's been learnt - imagine that, a whole Gershwin. I have to play the trumpet for four bars but the rest are brilliant. The cast have learned singing, dancing, acting and playing

I'd say the Black Country crowd has a brilliant sense of humour

an instrument at the same time. There's tap dancing, spinning and playing clean notes. How you do play a violin cleanly when you're jumping around on the stage?

"Everything you see played on stage is live and real. It makes it very, very exciting. It's pure enjoyment, pure escapism, a big bundle of fun. It's like medicine for the soul."

Tom was drawn to the stage by *Crazy For You*, which he saw when he was 15 with Ruthie Henshall. "If there was one role in my entire life at the top of my bucket list, it was Bobby. With loads of musicals, the scripts are neither here nor there. But this was written in the 1990s - when the *Die Hards* and *When Harry Met Sally* were coming out. The dialogue at that time was great with loads of one-liners. So the audience smile from start to finish. It's a classic boy meets girl, but it's the lengths Bobby goes to that makes it funny, there's a farcical element to it."

Tom is also looking forward to being back in Birmingham, where he played in *Top Hat*.

"I've done *Top Hat* and *Private Lives* too. It's lovely to be back. I'd say the Birmingham and Black Country crowd have a brilliant sense of humour, they're always very warm. Some parts of the country, I can't name them, they're a little bit cooler and reserved, whereas with Birmingham the audience is ready to have a good time from the moment the curtain goes up."

● For more entertainment news and reviews see *The Ticket* in your Express & Star every Friday.

Simon Lipkin as popular Mr Poppy



Festive favourite in world stage premiere at Rep

NATIVITY! The Musical, a stage show based on a series of popular festive movies created by Birmingham writer and director Debbie Isitt, is bringing Christmas early to Birmingham Repertory Theatre.

Opening with its world premiere tomorrow (Friday), the musical filled with cute children, laughs and popular tunes will run for just over three weeks.

The Nativity series of three films have become family favourites, written and directed by Bafta award winner Isitt. And now she brings to the stage the hilarious story of a school's attempt to stage the best nativity play, led by the exasperated teacher Mr Maddens and his eccentric teaching assistant Mr Poppy, and featuring 27 enthusiastic youngsters – all from the West Midlands.

"Birmingham and the West Midlands has so many talented children and I loved meeting all of them at our auditions," said Isitt.

"I'm absolutely delighted to be working with our sweet and funny young cast and the incredibly talented and hilariously funny musical theatre cast who are going to be brilliant."

After its Birmingham run (until November 12), the show is going on tour to cities including Sheffield, Manchester, Plymouth and Leeds, before a London run which will include a live cinema screening.

The cast includes West End regular Simon Lipkin (Avenue Q, Spamalot, Guys and Dolls) as the barmy Mr Poppy and Daniel Boys as Mr Maddens (Avenue Q and TV's Any Dream Will Do).

For tickets see Birmingham-rep.co.uk or call 0121 236 4455.

Civic is back with rock icons Placebo



The gig of the week has to be between the return of Wolverhampton Civic Hall with goth icons Placebo on Saturday night and the ice cool London Grammar at Birmingham O2 Academy on Monday.

London band Placebo, fronted by Brian Molko, pictured, burst onto the music scene 20 years ago with Nancy Boy and went on to work with David Bowie and REM's Michael Stipe. They released seven studio albums, won loyal followings in the UK and France and had hit singles with Pure Morning, You Don't Care About Us and Every You Every Me from their classic Without You I'm Nothing album.

London Grammar, fronted by Hannah Reid, won acclaim for their

debut album If You Wait and hit single Strong in 2013, and released second album Truth Is A Beautiful Thing this summer. They will be supported by LA outfit Lo Moon for the sold out Birmingham show.

It's all going on at the O2 Academy tomorrow (Friday) with Dizzee Rascal in the main room and Roachford and Gabrielle Aplin (sold out) in the venue's other rooms. At the same venue Grammy Award-winners Train have sold out their show on Saturday, Atlanta rapper Future plays on Sunday, Marmozets on Monday, The Horrors on Tuesday and Zara Larsson on Wednesday.

Over at the O2 Institute in Digbeth, Bewdley's Becky Hill has sold out her Friday night gig. Metronomy play the venue on Saturday, the same night as MOBO

winner Shaka. Californian singer BANKS visits on Sunday. Electro-punk duo Sleaford Mods play next Thursday.

Emeli Sandé heads to Birmingham's Genting Arena on Wednesday, in support of her second studio album Long Live The Angels.

In Wolverhampton young punks Cabbage play the Slade Rooms tomorrow, whilst WASP celebrate the 25th anniversary of their album The Crimson Idol at the Wulfrun Hall. Former Stranglers frontman Hugh Cornwell is at the Wulfrun on Saturday.

The South play the music of The Beautiful South and feature one of that band's former singers, Alison Wheeler, at Bilston's Robin 2 on Sunday.

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RED HOUSE GLASS CONE

There is lots to do this half term at Red House Glass Cone, whether creating a monster or ninja in fused glass or taking part in trick or treat around the site.



The glass fusion sessions for monsters is on Thursday 26 and for ninjas Tuesday 24, Trick and Treat days are Friday 27 and Saturday 28 October, pre-booking is essential.

We have a Ninja themed family day on Wednesday 25 from 10.00am -3.00pm The site has a variety of craft studios to explore as part of the visit.

Visitors can watch glassmaking demonstrations daily throughout the holidays and for refreshments visit the Red Cone Coffee House.

To pre book sessions call (01384) 815571

Website: www.dudley.gov.uk/see-and-do/museums

Half term at Red House Glass Cone

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Ninja Day • 10am - 3pm

Friday 27 & Saturday 28 October
Trick and Treat
pre booking essential

Craft studios, Red Cone Coffee House and glassmaking demonstrations

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Metropolitan Borough Council

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Jules and Hayden have recently taken over The Olde Queens Head and it's been going from strength to strength since.

Offering fantastic meals from pub grub to Carvery's there's something for every pallet which have people coming back week after week clearing their plates each time. As well as the superb food on offer they also have a brilliant entertainment week in week out, from open mic nights, motown nights, DJ'S, live bands and their upcoming 80's fancy dress night where prizes are up for grabs for the best dressed. Monday club is a great success with drinks being served at bargain prices from 12-11pm.

So come see for yourself where a great friendly welcome awaits you from everyone at The Olde Queens Head.

Olde Queens Head

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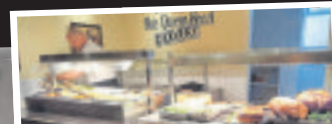
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Kit Harington

Gunpowder (BBC1, 9.10pm)
New series. In 1603, following the death of Elizabeth I, King James of Scotland claims the English throne, and the country goes to war with Catholic Spain. As a result, English Catholics are persecuted and driven into hiding, but after witnessing the brutal means by which the Crown intends to punish his people for practicing their faith, recusant Catholic Robert Catesby devises a treasonous plot to assassinate King James. However, he must first enlist the aid of stalwart allies, and heads to Brussels to seek the help of a hardened war veteran named Guy Fawkes. Three-part historical drama, starring Kit Harington as Catesby – his own ancestor – alongside Liv Tyler, Mark Gatiss, Derek Riddell and Tom Cullen.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** The Hairys Bikers' Comfort Food. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News. Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.45** **Film:** Madagascar. (2005) Animated comedy, with the voice of Ben Stiller. **4.05** Final Score. **5.25** BBC News. **5.35** Regional Programme. **5.45** Pointless Celebrities. **6.35** **Strictly Come Dancing.** Twelve couples remain as the annual dancing competition enters its fifth weekend. The pressure to put in a flawless performance remains as high as ever, as the duos once again take to the stage to demonstrate the routines they have been practising throughout the week. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman are on hand to oversee proceedings, as judges Shirley Ballas, Dorey Bussell, Bruno Tonioli and Craig Revel Horwood share their thoughts on the couples' steps. **8.20** **Casualty.** Connie distracts herself from her personal problems by trying to get to the bottom of the squabbles between Dylan, David and Louise, who have been in conflict over Dylan's decision to smuggle Sanosi into the UK. Meanwhile, Lily is made uneasy by the natural chemistry between Sam and Iain, who she discovers have a romantic history together, and Max tries to deliver bad news to mortuary assistant Tara, whose new squeeze seems to have a troubling secret. **9.10** **Gunpowder.** New series. Historical drama telling the story of the 1603 plot concocted by Robert Catesby and his Catholic co-conspirators to kill James I. Starring Kit Harington and Liv Tyler. **10.10** **BBC News:** Weather; National Lottery Update. **10.30** **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Chelsea v Watford at Stamford Bridge and Huddersfield Town v Manchester United at the John Smith's Stadium. Watford started the season in fine form to take their place in the top half of the table, and were expected to provide an stern examination of Chelsea's title credentials. **12.00** The NFL Show. **12.30** The Weight Cut: Extreme Weight Loss. **1.00** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.05** BBC News.

BBC2

6.45 Animal Park Summer Special. (R) **7.30** Naomi's Nightmares of Nature. (R) **8.00** Deadly 60. (R) **8.30** Show Me What You're Made Of. (R) **9.00** Saturday Mash-Up! **11.00** Walrus: Two Tonne Tusker – Natural World. (R) **12.00** Rick Stein's Long Weekends. (R) **1.00** Grand Tours of the Scottish Islands. (R) **2.00** Coast. (R) **3.00** Flog It! (R) **4.00** Mastermind. (R) **4.30** The Big Family Cooking Showdown. (R) **5.30** Anglesey: Island Life. **6.00** **Gardeners' World.** Monty Don advises on what plants need protection and how to nurture tender plants over the coming months. Plus, Carol Klein celebrates ornamental grasses. Including Weather. (R) **7.00** **Coastal Path.** Explorer Paul Rose takes in the north Cornish coast, touring Tintagel Castle, experiencing the hustle and bustle of Padstow's 'Obby 'Oss festival, and visiting St Ives. (R) **7.30** **Front Row.** Dorey Bussell celebrates the legacy of choreographer Kenneth Macmillan, and Stig Abell interviews Philip Pullman about his new novel The Book of Dust: La Belle Sauvage. **8.00** **Britain Afloat.** Mary-Ann Ochota examines the prevalence of the punt, the flat-bottomed vessels first set afloat in the Bronze Age. (R) **8.30** **Dad's Army.** The air-raid wardens have to share the church hall with the Home Guard after their HQ is bombed, but Hodges' men are terribly disruptive and soon cause mayhem. (R) **9.00** **Lucy Worsley's Nights at the Opera.** The presenter details how Bizet's Carmen, Puccini's La Boheme, Wagner's Ring Cycle and Richard Strauss's Salome swept away operatic conventions in the 19th and early-20th centuries. **10.00** **QI XL.** With Bill Bailey, Phill Jupitus and Claudia Winkleman. **10.45** **Later – with Jools Holland.** With Paul Heaton and Jacqui Abbott, Wolf Alice, Grizzly Bear, Sza and RL Boyce. **11.50** **Film: In Our Name.** (2010) A British soldier is haunted by her experiences in Iraq, and becomes increasingly paranoid about her daughter's safety. Drama, starring Joanne Froggatt and Mel Rado. **1.15** **Film:** In the Dark Half. (2012) **2.35** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITY: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Super 4. (R) **7.00** Mission: Impossible. (R) **7.05** Oddbods. (R) **7.10** Ultimate Spider-Man: Web Warriors. **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **11.50** Come Dine with Me. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: The Powerpuff Girls. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Thunderbirds Are Go. **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. **9.25** Saturday Morning with James Martin. **11.20** Gino's Italian Escape – Islands in the Sun. (R) **11.50** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **12.50** ITV News: Weather. **1.00** ITV Racing: Live from Ascot. Coverage of today's race meeting at Ascot. **5.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **5.30** Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs. (R) **6.00** **Regional Programme:** Weather. **6.05** **ITV News:** Weather. **6.20** **Cannonball.** **7.20** **The Chase: Celebrity Special.** Bradley Walsh invites Jamie Theakston, Faye Tozer, Ben Cohen and Sara Pascoe to take part in the quiz, with thousands of pounds in charity donations up for grabs. **8.20** **The X Factor – Judges' Houses.** Dermot O'Leary presents as the contest enters the judges' houses stage, which sees the 24 remaining would-be stars jetting off to exotic locales for a taste of the glamour that comes with international stardom. This time, the Boys accompany Louis Walsh to Istanbul, while the Girls follow Sharon Osbourne to San Francisco. Simon Cowell takes the Groups to his villa Chateau Ditter near Cannes, and Nicole Scherzinger takes the Overs to South Africa. Each group will receive mentoring from some of the judges' closest confidants, as former X Factor judge Cheryl returns to mentor Simon's ensembles, and Jack and Kelly Osbourne help their mother Sharon with the girls. Nicole will be enlisting the aid of UK grime star Stormzy, while Louis' lads will be mentored by Brit Award-winning singer Mika. **10.15** **The Jonathan Ross Show.** **11.25** **ITV News:** Weather. **11.45** **Film: Mickey Blue Eyes.** (1999) **1.30** Jackpot247. **3.00** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 Mobil 1 The Grid. **6.40** Triathlon: Hever Castle. **7.10** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** The Big Bang Theory. **9.55** The Big Bang Theory. **10.25** The Big Bang Theory. **10.50** The Simpsons. (R) **11.20** The Simpsons. (R) **11.50** Come Dine with Me. (R) **12.20** Come Dine with Me. (R) **12.50** Come Dine with Me. (R) **1.20** Come Dine with Me. (R) **1.50** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **2.50** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **3.50** Best Laid Plans. **4.55** Formula 1 United States Grand Prix Practice 3 Live. Further coverage from the 17th round of the season at Circuit of the Americas in Texas. **6.30** **Channel 4 News.** **7.00** **Rivers with Jeremy Paxman.** The presenter explores the Severn, Britain's longest river, which flows through both England and Wales. Along the way, he visits the largest ship graveyard in the country, meets the last practitioners of an unusual form of fishing, and takes part in a coracle regatta. He finally reaches the source of the river, where he meets a local poet. (R) **8.00** **Hidden Britain by Drone.** Tony Robinson presents the first of two programmes using drones to shoot aerial footage of areas of Britain that are off limits to the public. Among the locations featured is a village on Salisbury Plain that is not listed on any maps, and is used by the military for training. The drones record an exercise involving tanks storming the area. Other sites include the world's most advanced container port, a Second World War bunker, an abandoned nuclear base that once housed nuclear weapons, and an 18th-century mansion belonging to a Russian billionaire. (R) **9.00** **Formula 1 United States Grand Prix Qualifying Live.** Coverage of the qualifying session (Start-time 10.00pm), as the drivers contest starting grid positions at Circuit of the Americas in Texas, ahead of the 17th round of the season. Presented by Steve Jones, with analysis by David Coulthard, Mark Webber and Eddie Jordan. **11.35** **Film: The Ieman.** (2012) Fact-based crime drama, starring Michael Shannon **1.25** The Last Leg. (R) **2.20** Hollyoaks. **4.30** Location, Location, Location. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.10** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.45** The Gadget Show. (R) **11.40** Police Interceptors: Future Crime. (R) **12.40** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.40** The A-Team. (R) **2.40** The A-Team. (R) **3.40** The A-Team. (R) **4.40** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **5.40** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. Documentary giving an insight into cash-strapped Britain from the perspectives of debtors, creditors and those who collect the payments, including High Court enforcement bailiffs and repossession teams. The series follows each case as it unfolds, recording the thoughts and feelings on both sides, the process of repossession and the impact it has on all involved. (R) **6.40** **Film: The Bridge at Remagen.** (1969) As Allied forces prepare for a major assault on Germany, a small unit of American soldiers is sent to capture a strategically important bridge over the Rhine – but German forces are determined to prevent the Allied advance, and seek to destroy it. Second World War adventure, starring George Segal, Robert Vaughn, Ben Gazzara and Bradford Dillman. Edited for language. **7.40** **5 News Update.** **7.45** **Film: The Bridge at Remagen.** (1969) Concluded. **8.55** **5 News Weekend.** **9.00** **Football on 5: The Championship.** Colin Murray introduces highlights from the weekend's games, including Bristol City v Leeds United at Ashton Gate. Middlesbrough v Cardiff City at Riverside Stadium, and Millwall v Birmingham City at The Den. **10.00** **Football on 5: Goal Rush.** Colin Murray introduces all the goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two, including Shrewsbury Town v Fleetwood Town, and Carlisle United v Notts County. **10.30** **Film: Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls.** (1995) The eccentric pet detective is coaxed out of exile in a Buddhist monastery to search for a missing sacred bat in the African jungle. Comedy sequel, with Jim Carrey and Simon Callow. Edited for sexual content and language. **12.10** SuperCasino. **3.10** Notorious: The Philpott Fire – 5 Years On. (R) **4.00** Killer Schoolgirl: Countdown to Murder. (R) **4.50** Great Scientists. (R) **5.15** Wildlife SOS. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four **7.00** The Incredible Human Journey **8.00** Wild China **9.00** Beck: The Family **10.30** Beck: The Invasion **12.00** Top of the Pops: 1984 **1.20** Sound of Cinema: The Music That Made the Movies **2.20** Wild China **3.20** Close **ITV2** **11.25** The X Factor: Six Chair Challenge **1.30** Take Me Out **2.55** **Film:** What a Girl Wants **4.00** FYI Daily **4.05** **Film:** What a Girl Wants (2003) **5.05** **Film:** Liar Liar (1997) **6.45** **Film:** The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001) **7.45** FYI Daily **7.50** **Film:** The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001) **10.20** Celebrity Juice **11.05** Family Guy **12.00** American Dad! **12.55** Timewasters **1.30** Bromans **2.25** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen **ITV3** **11.15** FYI Daily **11.20** **Film:** The Nun's Story (1959) **12.55** Lewis **2.55** Foyle's War **3.00** Midsomer Murders **11.00** Lewis **1.00** On the Buses **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping **ITV4** **12.00** Football Rivalries **12.10** The Darts Show **12.45** World Series of Darts Live: Germany. Coverage of the opening session of the second day of the inaugural staging of the tournament. **5.00** Nijinsky's Triple Crown **5.05** Pawn Stars **7.00** World Series of Darts Live: Germany. Coverage of the semi-finals and final of the inaugural staging of the tournament. **11.00** **Film:** Conan the Destroyer (1984) **12.00** FYI Daily **12.05** **Film:** Conan the Destroyer (1984) **1.05** The Sweeney **2.05** The Classic Car Show **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **E4** **11.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **12.30** The Goldbergs **3.00** Don't Tell the Bride **4.00** The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** **Film:** Die Hard (1988) **11.40** Gogglebox **1.50** Rude Tube **3.15** Tattoo Fixers **4.10** How I Met Your Mother **4.55** Rude(ish) Tube **Film4** **11.00** Siege of the Saxons (1963) **1.00** Step Up 4: Miami Heat (2012) **2.55** Marmaduke (2010) **4.40** The House of Magic (2013) **6.20** Hulk (2003) Comic-book adventure, starring Eric Bana. **9.00** Thor (2011) Fantasy adventure, starring Chris Hemsworth. **11.15** Machete Kills (2013) **1.25** The Hole (2009) **3.20** Close

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

FANTASTIC CARVERY 7 DAYS A WEEK

They always say never judge a book by its cover so we decided to check out The Park Lane Tavern in Colley Gate, and I have to say what was on offer in there was a total surprise.



It serves a carvery option 7 days a week from midday which consists of a choice of 4 meats, turkey, beef, pork and gammon and accompanied by stuffing, Yorkshire puddings and up to 12 vegetables, topped off with what they call their "secret recipe gravy" known also as what mother used to make! All this for just £4.99 for a lunchtime meal or £5.99 evenings and Saturdays and £7.99 for Sunday lunch represents extremely good value by today's standards.

They also don't forget their mini diners with 'Kids Eat Free' Monday to Saturday between 3pm and 6pm and during school holidays it's All Day Monday to Saturday.

But it doesn't stop their they also have a full main menu consisting of the classic pub favourites such as steaks, mixed grills, burgers and fish and chips, where the fish would not be out of place in any issue of 'Moby Dick'. To finish is there very tempting dessert menu, that's if you have room after the size of meals you get at The Park Lane Tavern.

Then if that's not enough choice for you you can also choose for the breakfast which is served Friday, Saturday and Sunday 08.30am until 11.00am. Their breakfast is a buffet style 'All you can eat' with enough choice to satisfy any diner from eggs 2 ways, bacon, sausage, mushrooms, baked beans, hash browns, black pudding, grilled fresh tomatoes, toast & fried bread. There's even



jam for your toast if you still not full after all that.

Half Price Monday

They also host special evenings like their 'Half Price Monday' which has proven to be very popular, and why not, already reasonably priced selected main meals off their main menu (which includes steaks) at half price served between 5pm and 8pm every Monday. Also their psychic evenings where for £15 you get a reading from a medium and a carvery, for those believers amongst you that must be a bargain.

You get a very friendly feeling when you enter The Park Lane Tavern and that's mostly down to the staff. Happy to see you and always keen to help. They have a lot of regular customers and it's been known for a customer's drink to be poured and waiting for them before they reach the bar, you don't see that at many places nowadays.

There are no airs or graces at The Park Lane Tavern, you get delicious food at great prices served by happy staff in a comfortable environment. No wonder this place has people returning time after time.

CHOICE



Angela Scanlon

Robot Wars (BBC2, 8pm)
New series. Dara O Briain and Angela Scanlon present a new format for the contest. Among the new twists are a new hazard that fills the arena with fog, Robot Redemption rounds, in which losing teams have a chance to get back into the contest, and the show's biggest ever battle, the Ten Robot Rumble, in which 10 teams battle to the death with no time limit.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.25** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.15** Money for Nothing. (R) **3.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.00** Points of View. **4.15** Songs of Praise. **4.50** Eat Well for Less? (R) **5.50** BBC News.
6.05 Regional Programme.
6.15 **Countryfile**. John Craven and Margherita Taylor present the show from Cornwall, where they attend a food festival dedicated to using every part of an animal, visit a vineyard with unusual origins, and meet a writer who is trying to preserve the Cornish language. Plus, Adam Henson reports on soya farming and Tom Heap examines calls to suspend public rights of way.
7.15 **Strictly Come Dancing: The Results**. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkelman present the results of last night's public vote, which is combined with the judges' scores to reveal the two lowest scoring couples. Both pairs will compete in a dance-off to decide which of them will be eliminated from the contest. With music from Irish rock band the Script.
8.00 **Antiques Roadshow**. Fiona Bruce presents the show from Senate House in Bloomsbury, where experts meet a man who has flown in from Antwerp to get a carved whale bone scrimshaw valued. Other items featured in the show include a brick that survived the Great Fire of London and a stuffed artist's model used by some of 19th-century Paris's most famous painters.
9.00 **The Last Post**. Drama about military police and their families in a 1960s British colony on the Red Sea coast.
10.00 BBC News.
10.20 Regional Programme.
10.30 **Match of the Day 2**. Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action, featuring Tottenham Hotspur v Liverpool at Wembley Stadium and Everton v Arsenal at Goodison Park.
11.30 **NFL Highlights**. Arizona Cardinals v Los Angeles Rams. Caroline Barker introduces action.
12.30 Weather for the Week Ahead.
12.35 BBC News.

BBC2

6.35 Great British Garden Revival. (R) **7.35** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.35** Countryfile. (R) **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.00** Mary Berry's Foolproof Cooking. (R) **11.30** My Life on a Plate. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** Joan Fontaine: Talking Pictures. (R) **1.30** Film: Suspicion. (1941) Alfred Hitchcock's thriller, starring Cary Grant. **3.05** Northern Italy Unpacked. (R) **4.05** Flog It! **5.00** H is for Hawk: A New Chapter – Natural World. (R)
6.00 **Top Gear**. Chris Harris and Sabine Schmitz compete in a buggy race across the Californian desert that is one of the toughest events in motorsport, and Matt LeBlanc test drives new supercar the Ford GT. (R)
7.00 **Colombia with Simon Reeve**. The presenter explores the country as 50 years of civil war draws to a close in the wake of a recently signed peace deal. He meets guerrilla fighters who have pledged to lay down arms, but also discovers a negative consequence of their disarming, as the paramilitary gangs that control the drugs trade grow in power. Simon travels through the country with coca farmers, who discuss the government support they will need in the turbulent times ahead, as poverty and land ownership becoming pressing issues. (R)
8.00 **Robot Wars**. New series. Dara O Briain and Angela Scanlon present a new format for the contest featuring a Ten Robot Rumble, in which 10 teams battle to the death with no time limit.
9.00 **Louis Theroux: Dark States – Murder in Milwaukee**. The reporter examines gun crime and racial tensions in the US city, meeting the police department's homicide officers and families of people who have been shot. Last in the series.
10.00 **Snowfall**. Franklin is determined to recover his stolen money and get revenge on the people who took it, and Leon knows someone who might be able to help him achieve his goals.
10.45 **Mock the Week**. James Acaster, Ed Byrne, Gary Delaney, Ivo Graham and Zoe Lyons join host Dara O Briain and regular Hugh Dennis for the comedy show. (R)
11.20 Film: **Glory**. (1999)
1.15 Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **2.15** Holby City. (R) **3.15** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** The Aquabats! Super Show! (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Super 4. (R) **7.00** Mission Employable. (R) **7.05** Oddbods. (R) **7.10** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Ben 10. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Be Cool, Scooby-Doo! (R) **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Australian Wilderness with Ray Mears. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **10.55** Amazing Animal Births. (R) **11.25** Robson Green's Coastal Lives. (R) **11.55** Bigheads. (R) **12.55** ITV News: Weather. **1.00** The X Factor – Judges' Houses. (R) **2.55** Film: Mr Bean's Holiday. (2007)
4.35 Victoria. (R) **5.35** Regional Programme. **5.45** ITV News: Weather.
6.00 **Tippling Point: Lucky Stars**. Ben Shephard invites Katie Price, Alison Hammond and Marc Baylis to take part in a special edition of the quiz show, in which they must answer questions to win turns on an arcade-style machine. Dropping tokens down a choice of four chutes, they have to knock piles of them off a moving shelf – and the more they collect, the better their chances of collecting the £20,000 prize for their selected charity.
7.00 **The X Factor – Judges' Houses**. The Judges' House phase continues, with the acts jetting off overseas to perform for their mentors in the hope of winning a place in the live shows. Each coach has a guest judge on hand to help them – Louis Walsh and Mika assess the boys in Istanbul, Simon Cowell and Cheryl teach the groups in France, Nicole Scherzinger and Stormzy take the overs to South Africa, and Sharon Osbourne is joined by her children Jack and Kelly to oversee the girls in San Francisco.
9.00 **Your Song**. Emma Willis presents a one-off special in which members of the public receive private performances from their favourite stars, including Rita Ora, Paloma Faith and James Arthur.
10.00 ITV News: Weather.
10.15 **Peston on Sunday**. Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston and Allegra Stratton. (R)
11.15 Liar. (R)
12.10 Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** British Superbike Championship Highlights.

CHANNEL 4

6.20 Kevin Can Wait. **6.45** Kevin Can Wait. **7.10** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Jamie's Quick & Easy Food. (R) **1.00** The Simpsons. (R) **1.30** The Simpsons. (R) **2.00** Film: Rango. (2011) Oscar-winning animated comedy, with the voice of Johnny Depp.
4.10 The Crystal Maze: Celebrity Specials. (R) **5.15** The Great British Bake Off. (R)
6.35 Channel 4 News.
7.00 **Formula 1 United States Grand Prix Live Build-Up**. A look ahead to today's Grand Prix, which takes place at Circuit of the Americas in Austin, Texas, and serves as the 17th round of the season. Presented by Steve Jones.
7.35 **Formula 1 United States Grand Prix Live**. Steve Jones presents coverage of the 17th race of the season (Start-time 8.00pm), held at Circuit of the Americas in Austin, Texas. Lewis Hamilton has dominated the second half of the campaign, as main rival Sebastian Vettel has been beset by problems. The Mercedes driver could clinch the drivers' title this evening, starting the race with a 59-point cushion, although there are still 100 points available, and victory for Vettel would narrow the gap ahead the next race in Mexico. With analysis by David Coulthard, Mark Webber and Eddie Jordan.
10.10 **Formula 1 United States Grand Prix Live Reaction**. Steve Jones, David Coulthard, Mark Webber and Eddie Jordan analyse this evening's race, which served as the 17th round of the season.
11.15 Film: **Child 44**. (2015) A secret police agent in 1950s Russia hunts for a serial child murderer in the face of an official cover-up. Detective thriller, starring Tom Hardy and Gary Oldman.
1.40 Travel Man: 48 Hours in Lisbon. (R) **2.05** Britain's Ancient Tracks with Tony Robinson. The Time Team presenter, treks along the ancient Roman road, Dere Street, last in the series. (R) **3.00** Gillette World Sport. Global sports action. **3.30** KOTV Boxing Weekly. **3.55** Mobil 1 The Grid. (R) **4.25** Location, Location, Location. Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer help two house buyers. (R) **5.20** Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free. (R) **5.35** Countdown. With Adrian Chiles in Dictionary Corner. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Poppy Cat. **6.10** Little Princess. (R) **6.25** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **6.35** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.40** Milkshake! Bopping About. (R) **6.45** Simon. (R) **6.50** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.55** Wissper. (R) **7.05** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.20** Bob the Builder. (R) **7.30** Fireman Sam. **8.00** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.15** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.40** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **9.30** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **10.00** The Great South Run 2017. **12.15** The A-Team. (R) **1.15** The A-Team. (R) **2.15** The A-Team. (R) **3.20** The A-Team. (R) **4.20** Film: Daddy Day Camp. (2007) Comedy sequel, starring Cuba Gooding Jr. **5.20** 5 News Update. **5.25** Film: Daddy Day Camp. (2007) Concluded.
6.05 5 News Weekend.
6.10 Film: **Left Behind**. (2014) The world is plunged into chaos when millions of people suddenly disappear. An airline pilot tries to save the remaining passengers on his flight, while on the ground, his daughter tries to find out if her mother and brother are among those who have vanished. Fantasy adventure based on the series of novels by Jerry B Jenkins and Tim LaHaye, starring Nicolas Cage and Lea Thompson.
8.05 Film: **Poseidon**. (2006) A cruise ship capsizes in a tidal wave on New Year's Eve. A small band of survivors, including a professional gambler, a father searching for his missing daughter, a stowaway and a suicidal man who has regained his will to live, battles to get to the surface and escape the sinking vessel. Remake of 1970s disaster movie The Poseidon Adventure, starring Kurt Russell, Richard Dreyfuss and Josh Lucas.
9.05 5 News Update.
9.10 Film: **Poseidon**. (2006) Concluded.
10.00 Film: **2012**. (2009) A scientist learns the world is soon to face a global cataclysm that will wipe out the human race, but finds the US president has plans to secretly save a fraction of the population, leaving everyone else to die. A writer learns of this scheme, and as the world is devastated by earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, he tries to get his family to the last safe refuge. Disaster movie, with John Cusack.
1.15 SuperCasino. **3.10** Paddington Station 24/7. (R) **4.00** Cruising with Jane McDonald. (R) **4.50** Great Scientists. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Only Connect **7.30** University Challenge **8.00** Jacqueline du Pré: A Gift Beyond Words **9.00** Hamlet from Glyndebourne **11.50** Jacqueline du Pré plays Dvorak's Cello Concerto **12.40** Classic Cellists at the BBC **1.40** The Brontës at the BBC **2.40** The Story of Scottish Art **3.40** Close
ITV2
11.05 2Awesome: Ready, Set, Style **11.35** 2Awesome: Third Wheel **11.50** Take Me Out **12.50** Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule **1.25** Film: Yogi Bear (2010) **2.25** FYI Daily **2.30** Film: Yogi Bear (2010) **3.00** Film: Corpse Bride (2005) **4.05** FYI Daily **4.10** Film: Corpse Bride (2005) **4.45** Film: The Haunted Mansion (2003) **5.45** FYI Daily **5.50** Film: The Haunted Mansion (2003) **6.25** Film: The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers (2002) **7.25** FYI Daily **7.30** Film: The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers (2002) **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.30** The Cleveland Show **1.00** Through the Keyhole **2.00** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.25** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
12.45 Film: The Railway Children (1970) **1.50** FYI Daily **1.55** Film: The Railway Children (1970) **3.00** Film: Columbo: Agenda for Murder (1990) **5.05** Lewis **7.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **9.00** The Syndicate **10.05** Honest **11.10** Film: Bridget Jones's Diary (2001) **12.20** FYI Daily **12.25** Film: Bridget Jones's Diary (2001) **1.10** The Knock **2.05** Mr Selfridge **2.55** Lewis **4.30** Judge Judy **5.10** On the Buses **5.40** ITV3 Nightscreen
ITV4
11.00 Shed and Buried **11.55** Pawn Stars **12.50** Film: Lonely Are the Brave (1962) **1.50** FYI Daily **1.55** Film: Lonely Are the Brave (1962) **3.00** Film: Rio Bravo (1959) **4.00** FYI Daily **4.05** Film: Rio Bravo (1959) **5.50** Hornblower **8.00** The Chase Celebrity Special **9.00** Film: Last Man Standing (1996) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05** Film: Last Man Standing (1996) **11.05** Car Crash Global: Caught on Camera **12.05** Film: United 93 (2006) **1.05** FYI Daily **1.10** Film: United 93 (2006) **2.15** Tommy Cooper **2.40** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
11.00 Made in Chelsea **12.00** Don't Tell the Bride **1.00** Film: Captain Ron (1992) **3.00** The Goldbergs **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: Pitch Perfect (2012) **11.15** Naked Attraction **12.20** Tattoo Fixers **1.25** Rude Tube **2.30** Don't Tell the Bride **3.20** Hollyoaks



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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

Tears of the Sun, Channel 5, 11.05pm

A veteran lieutenant leads an elite Navy Seal team on an undercover mission to evacuate a doctor from crisis-torn Nigeria. However, the brutality of the conflict prompts the rescuers to disobey orders and intervene to save the lives of helpless refugees. Action drama, starring Bruce Willis, Monica Bellucci, Cole Hauser and Eamonn Walker. (2003)

TUESDAY

Abducted: The Jocelyn Shaker Story, Channel 5, 3.20pm

A seven-year-old is abducted from a Colombian resort and her parents must risk everything to bring her home again. Thriller, starring Kathleen Rose Perkins, Luis Fernando Hoyos and Marcela Mar. (2016)

WEDNESDAY

The Good Witch's Destiny, Channel 5, 3.20pm

Cassandra Nightingale prepares to celebrate her birthday, hoping to bring as many of her friends and family together as possible. While investigating her family history, she discovers a story of a curse connected to the mysterious disappearance of her great aunt. Drama sequel, the sixth film in the Good Witch series, starring Catherine Bell. (2013)



Tears of the Sun, Monday, Channel 5, 11.05pm

THURSDAY

A Sunday Horse, Channel 5, 3.10pm

A determined horse rider strives to become a success in the sport, despite limited resources for training. Her career is seemingly ended by a near fatal accident, but she resolves to recover from her injuries and make a comeback by riding in the US national jumping championship. Fact-based drama, starring Nikki Reed and Linda Hamilton. (2015)

FRIDAY

Middle Men, Channel 4, 12.10am

Two men approach a slick businessman to help them put together the first porn website on the internet. He comes up with grander plans than they had ever envisaged and soon the money is rolling in. However, with success comes the unwanted attention of the FBI, comen, corrupt politicians and gangsters. Fact-based comedy drama, with Luke Wilson. (2009)

Piers returns to get the inside story once again

Love him or loathe him, you can't argue that Piers Morgan is well connected and usually manages to extract some juicy information out of his guests.

His chat show Life Stories returns tonight and his first guest is another cracker who drops plenty of bombshells to the journalist and broadcaster.

Actress Kim Cattrall made her film debut in Otto Preminger's 1975 film Rosebud. She then went on to star in Porky's (1982), Police Academy (1984), Big Trouble in Little China (1986), Marnequin (1987), Masquerade (1988) and Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country (1991).

However, the Liverpool-born British-Canadian is best known for her role as Samantha Jones in the HBO series, Sex and the City from 1998-2004 for which she received five Emmy and four Golden Globe nominations, winning the Golden Globe in 2004.

She reprised the role in the spin-off films Sex and the City (2008) and Sex and the City 2 (2010).

Since 2014, the 61-year-old has starred in the HBO Canada series, Sensitive Skin, playing Davina Jackson, a middle-aged woman who is having difficulty with growing old having been a noted beauty in her youth. And as well as appearing on TV and film, she is also an accomplished stage actress, and starred in the original Broadway production of Wild Honey, plus Antony and Cleopatra at the Liverpool Playhouse, Private Lives, and Sweet Bird of Youth at London's Old Vic in 2013.

Cattrall's private life has also kept her in the headlines.

She has been married three times to Larry Davis, Andre J Lyson and Mark Levinson, the latter with whom she co-wrote the 2002 book Satisfaction: The Art of the Female Orgasm.

She also took part in the BBC One documentary series Who Do You Think You Are? in 2009, where she discovered her grandfather George Baugh was a bigamist.

Despite an eventful life on and off

the screen and stage, to millions of fans, Cattrall will always be the self-proclaimed "try-sexual" man-eater Samantha.

And it's her conversation with Morgan about the Sex and the City franchise that has caused a media storm over the last few weeks.

Cattrall and her SATO co-stars Sarah Jessica Parker, Kristin Davis, Cynthia Nixon have spent years combating rumours that there was feuds between the four of them.

But when asked about her decision to turn down a role in Sex and the City 3, she denies shutting down production with her over-the-top demands, claiming the cast have a "toxic" relationship and that "Sarah Jessica Parker could have been nicer."

On her relationship with SJP, she also says: "I don't know what her issue is, I never have."

Despite her most famous character, Samantha, appearing to have run her course, if this interview is anything to go by, Cattrall is determined to carry on regardless.



Kim Cattrall guests on Piers Morgan's Life Stories, Monday, ITV, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

Elizabeth I's Secret Agents

BBC2, 9pm

The Elizabethan era was a time of great innovation. The pencil, bottled beer, the telescope, the knitting machine, the flush toilet and frozen chickens were all invented during the 1500s. But did you know that the reign of Elizabeth I also saw the creation of the first secret service? In the late 16th century, Britain was Europe's pariah - a protestant island on the northern edge of a catholic continent. England had no police force, nor even a standing army. Into this maelstrom stepped two civil servants, William Cecil and his son Robert, who devised and ran a semi-private secret state. They introduced Britain to the art of 'spyery', foiling countless plots against Elizabeth's life and eliminating their rivals - by killing them if necessary. In this one-off documentary, historical experts explore the politics and positioning around the Queen - a game with the highest stakes, where a false move could lead to death.

TUESDAY

The End of the F****g World

Channel 4, 10.20pm

Despite what you might think after seeing the attention-grabbing title of this new series, this isn't a

political documentary describing the behaviour of various nuclear powers, but is in fact a darkly comic drama - and a rather promising one, no less. It will doubtless prove controversial, but this shouldn't put viewers off - it looks great, and boasts a sterling supporting cast including BAFTA-winner Wunmi Mosaku and Game of Thrones' Gemma Whelan. It follows teenaged outsiders James (Alex Lawther, Black Mirror) and Alyssa (Jessica Barden, The Lobster): the former a loner with violent fantasies; the latter a disaffected admirer. But while Alyssa sees a kindred spirit, he merely sees a potential victim.

WEDNESDAY

Ugly House to Lovely House with George

Clarke Channel 4, 8pm

In the second episode, George Clarke is joined by leading architects to help transform a house belonging to Nick and Sonia, an appallingly designed flat spread over three dysfunctional car parking spaces. George charges award-winning architects Abigail Ashton and Andrew Porter with creating

something beautiful from this monstrosity. But working with a budget of £75,000, can they transform this foul flat into a proper home with two floors? And what will the pair's neighbours make of the drastic changes?

THURSDAY

Bargain-Loving Brits in Blackpool

Channel 5, 8pm

New series. Documentary following Britons living the high life on a low budget in one of the country's favourite resorts, from holiday-makers to those who have made the Lancashire town their home. Entertainer Simon Green - aka Betty Legs Diamond - talks about his life as a drag queen, and Scottish sisters Agnes and Margaret get more than they bargained



Tracey Breaks the News, Friday, BBC1, 9.30pm

for as part of their holiday package. Meanwhile, Jamie Diggins, who works as an estate agent for caravans, takes delivery of a static home that costs an amazing £280,000.

FRIDAY

Porridge

BBC1, 8.30pm

The jury remains out on whether writers Dick Clement and Ian La Frenais, the men behind the original 1970s series featuring Ronnie Barker, were wise to attempt a modern incarnation of this comedy, but at least these later episodes allow them to exercise plot lines now that the new characters have been established. In this instalment, Dougie Parfitt wants Fletch to join his crew as his consigliere. However, when Fletch tries to broker a peace with Dougie's arch rival, things don't quite go according to plan.

Tracey Breaks the News

BBC1, 9.30pm

New series. Greg James and Dotty host a lively mix of entertainment from the refurbished BBC Television Centre in White City, with American singer-songwriter Jason Derulo joining the pair to co-host the opening show, as well as perform two numbers.

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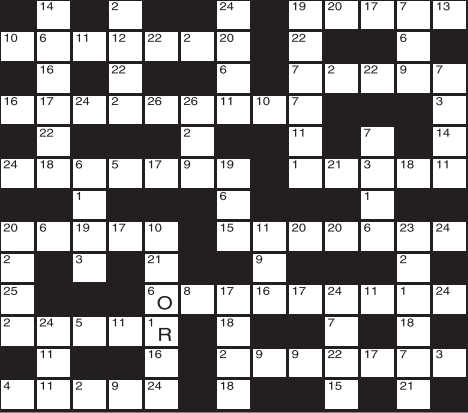
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BRAIN GYM

No.452

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



1	R	14
2		15
3		16
4		17
5		18
6	O	19
7		20
8		21
9		22
10		23
11		24
12		25
13		26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	Q	2	Z	3	L	4	T	5	U	6	P	7	F	8	H	9	D	10	B	11	M	12	C	13	J
14	A	15	S	16	E	17	O	18	N	19	K	20	Y	21	I	22	G	23	X	24	V	25	R	26	W

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

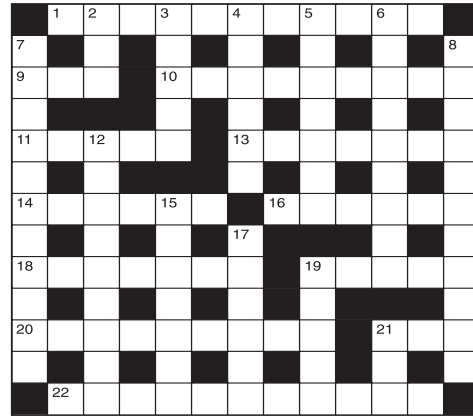
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- Centre cross is made with precision (11)
- Steal from Roy? (3)
- Fill up net in abundance (9)
- Foreign article includes untruth (5)
- Do they obliterate series of games? (7)
- Danger where things grow (6)
- Softening of elevations and depressions? (6)
- Somehow brings streams under control (7)
- Wise men for a long time in the ship (5)
- Ran back to sailor telling story (9)
- Reverence for article you and I have (3)
- Mine got more into the assembly place (7-4)

Down

- Alternative letter in sphere (3)
- Libertine half seen to mature (5)
- Makes happier - usually three at a time (6)
- Distinguished for being unskilled (7)
- Grief's fun when in pain! (9)
- Great manner for organisation (11)
- Parsimonious and prepared to fight, perhaps (5-6)
- Held back through shyness? (2,7)
- A gentle, refined disposition (7)
- Appoint as indication (6)
- Put up to play jokes on you and me as a sweetener (5)
- Bother about the year that never was? (3)



Quick Clues:

Across

- Have new owner (6,5)
- Skill (3)
- Likeness (9)
- Swarthy (5)
- Dexterity (7)
- Give work to (6)
- Reach (6)
- Ease (7)
- Open (5)
- Issuing (9)
- In the past (3)
- Alarmingly (11)

Down

- Very warm (3)
- Objectionable (5)
- Entangle (6)
- Disease (7)
- Blacken (9)
- Unfeeling (4-7)
- Journey's end (11)
- Entreating (9)
- Outdoor (4-3)
- Disclaimer (6)
- Instrument (5)
- Everything (3)

Sudoku

	4	6			2	1		
1				9		6		
5		2	9				7	8
	6		2		1		8	
		1			7	9		2
	1				8			
	7		4				5	9
5	3	7			2	4		

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:

3	4	2	6	5	8	7	9	1
5	1	6	9	4	7	3	8	2
8	9	7	1	3	2	5	4	6
2	5	9	3	6	4	8	1	7
6	8	1	5	7	9	2	3	4
7	3	4	8	2	1	9	6	5
4	7	8	2	1	3	6	5	9
9	2	5	4	8	6	1	7	3
1	6	3	7	9	5	4	2	8

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Elms; 3 Indolent; 9 Rhyming; 10 Error; 11 Perfect pitch; 13 Alight; 15 Agreed; 17 Ten-gallon hat; 20 Extra; 21 Indulge; 22 Tear-drop; 23 Asps.
Down: 1 European; 2 Mayor; 4 Nights; 5 Opening words; 6 Earache; 7 Tory; 8 Rider Haggard; 12 Editress; 14 Inertia; 16 Albino; 18 Holds; 19 Left.
QUICK - Across: 1 Sobs; 3 Allusion; 9 Respond; 10 Admit; 11 Misadventure; 13 Lessen; 15 Willow; 17 Complication; 20 Upper; 21 Baleful; 22 Strident; 23 Arid.
Down: 1 Scramble; 2 Basis; 4 Ledger; 5 Unattainable; 6 Immoral; 7 Note; 8 Good-tempered; 12 Dwindled; 14 Stopper; 16 Ribbon; 18 Infer; 19 Fuss.

Quiz

- Of which range is Mount Toubkal the highest mountain?
- Which dynasty's family home is at Hyannis Port?
- How old was Anna Paquin when she won an Oscar?
- Which Thomas Mann novel is set in a Swiss sanatorium?
- Which Italian monk was born Giovanni di Bernardone?
- Which British animator has won four Oscars?
- Of which band was Brian Jones an original member?
- In British folklore, which fairy rules over men's dreams?
- Whose palace of Nonsuch was excavated at Epsom in 1959?
- In which South American city did Lady Thatcher pass out during a speech?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 David Platt; 2 Horatio Nelson; 3 Basic English; 4 Antelope; 5 The rand; 6 North Korea; 7 Volkswagen; 8 Greta Garbo; 9 Bloomsbury Group; 10 Conkers.

Niner: GRANDIOSE

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

92486
1567
623183

gives a seaside feature,
gives a second seaside feature,
gives a third seaside feature.

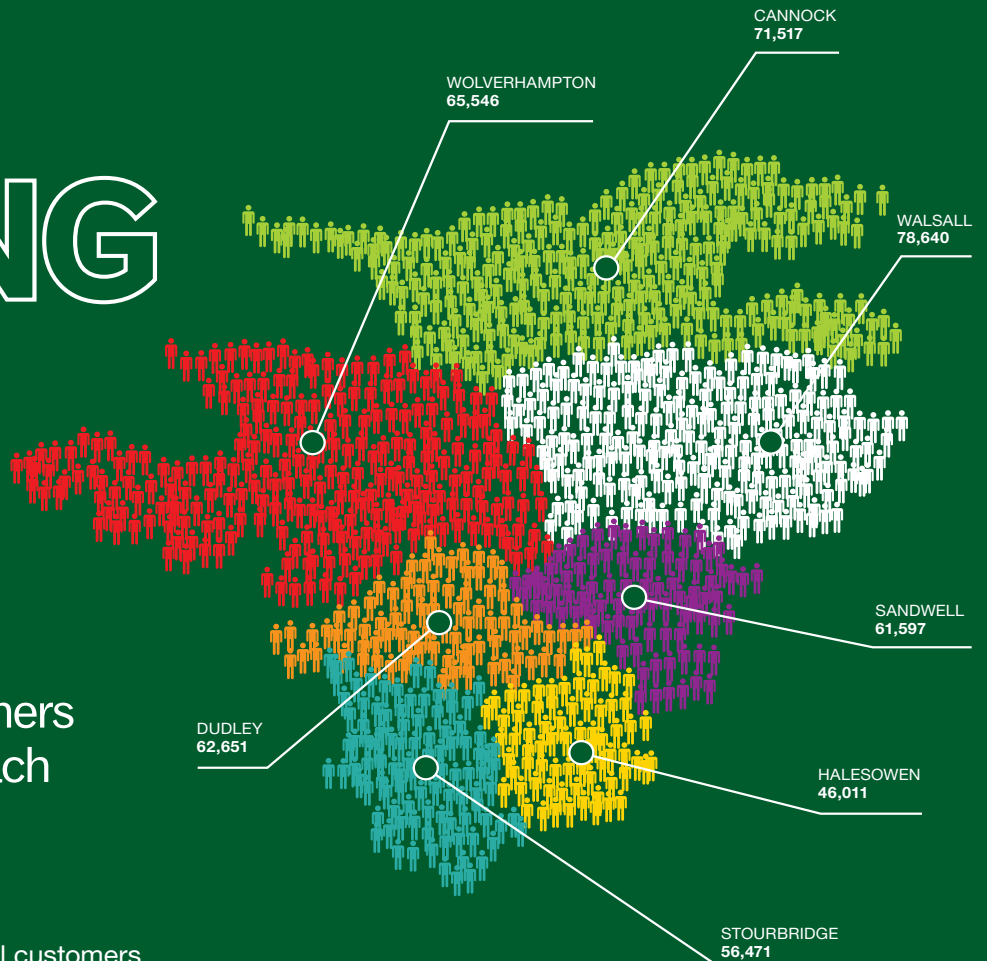
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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Isle be back for more tasty food

I WALKED in to the living room and took one look at my girlfriend. A teacher, back at work after the six-week break, she already had the look on her face that told me she felt like she'd never been away from the classroom.

We had already spent one evening that week, me helping her organise her stationery while she marked books and planned lessons. It was the easiest decision, made out of a mixture of laziness (on my part), tiredness (on hers).

"Right, I've booked a table. We're going to The Island House," I said. So 45 minutes later, along with my girlfriend's mum, we piled into the car. From the outside, The Island House, on the Stafford Road, Wolverhampton, looks warm and inviting. Early signs were good.

SEATING

Inside is clean and fairly comfy. Tables are well-spaced. You feel part of the experience without having a grizzly child staring you down from a foot away. There are two main seating areas around an old bar. This adds to the atmosphere as the noise pollution is broken down into more manageable chunks. Which brings us on to the food.

We had friendly staff serving us throughout, but if we were to be picky, the timing was slow. However, what I would say is that if you're a vegetarian steer clear. This is not a criticism, they just specialise in meat and fish dishes. Your options will be limited.

Already my girlfriend's mood had lifted as her eyes glided down the menu. We opted for the baked Camembert sharer served with a mixture of baby rustic breads and red onion jam to start. All three breads were lovely, ranging from a soft, croissant-like offering to the grainier farmhouse texture of another.

Piled high – minted lamb burger with fries



Her mum chose a selection of barbecue pork ribs that came with French toast. The toast was a little soggy, but the perfectly cooked ribs just slid off the bone.

But the mains are where the evening started to slip a little. Two of us were lucky. My girlfriend picked off the specials menu – a minted lamb burger packed with salad and two rashers of crisp bacon, accompanied by fat, skin-on chips, crispy onion rings, a pot of coleslaw and mustard mayonnaise.

I had an eight ounce sirloin steak which I slathered in a thick and creamy peppercorn sauce. Its sharp flavour

had enough of a kick without overpowering all else. The steak itself was juicy and flavoursome, just one problem... it wasn't my steak. My girlfriend's mum had also selected the same steak, but without sauce. She had also requested it be cooked more well done than mine.

The chef had put the sauce on the wrong plate. Yet, judging how pink the inside of her cut was, it is very doubtful it would have satisfied me as I like mine cooked 'medium'. She pointed this out and they offered to cook it further for her, yet when it returned it was almost as pink as before. Giving up, she settled for her side

Chic look – inside is modern and contemporary



portions but the manager for the night did agree to remove it from our bill.

Anyway on to desserts, I chose the raspberry bakewell with custard. The portion was a little small but it was gorgeously sweet. The other half had a tiramisu and declared it 'as good as she had tasted in Italy'. And, luckily, her mum also enjoyed her serving of chocolate fudge cake with marshmallows, meringue bites and a serving of cream.

So mission accomplished. Both with our cheering up skills and a (mostly) delightful meal. LEIGH SANDERS

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Bishops Wood/Tong Norton.
Generous reward available.
Telephone
01952 850426.

STILL MISSING
From Wolverhampton Road,
Sedgley, small female black
cat with white bib and tummy,
semi long haired, very timid.
Please check sheds and
garages.
01902 681316.

1

Family

Elderly & Disabled

MOBILITY SCOOTER As new,
only used twice.
£275
07798 606768.

MOBILITY SCOOTER, Go Go, full
working order, good batteries,
3.75mph, 21 stone weight limit,
disassembles easily, £280 ono.
07703 460744.



STANNAH STAIR LIFT
MODEL 420
Four years old, R/L hand,
4metre track, 12/13 steps.
Fully fitted with new battery and
serviced
Stafford / Cannock area.
£580.
07577 653409.

WREKIN STAIRLIFTS, recondi-
tioned lifts from £799. New avail-
able. 01952 405397/07897 273617

2

Leisure Time

Caravans Wanted

TOURING CARAVAN WANTED.
No objection to work, anything
considered. Please telephone
07980 365757.

* **All Caravans Wanted** *
* Any Age or Condition *
* ***CASH* WAITING*** *
* Immediate collection *
* **Call Bill on 07825 325 913** *

WANTED ALL CARAVANS
Any age or condition
Also motorhomes wanted.
TOP PRICES PAID
Immediate collection.
CALL THOMAS
07717 280 996
www.tscaravansandmotorhomes.co.uk

Caravans/ Motorhomes

2 BED STATIC CARAVAN
Mid Wales. Lovely views, lawn,
two fishing pools. 20 minutes to
coast. Rent included for 2018.
Dogs welcome. No age limit on
caravans.
£8,500.
07555 303350.

SORRY TO SELL IT

COACHMAN PASTICHE
460 / 2. 2013.
Immaculate condition.
New motor mover June 2016.
FSH. Warranty expires July
2018.
Porch awning plus many
extras.
£12,750.
01746 762870.

LUXURY LODGES FOR SALE on
stunning Seaside holiday park. 12
month season, amazing views,
great facilities. Pet friendly. Call
Paul to arrange visit 07960 944721.

VERY RARE 2004 VW T5
REIMO
2.5 TDi, 5 cylinder, one owner,
FSH, excellent condition,
£16,500 ono.
01562 752331.

Jumble Sales / Fetes

BRIC-A-BRAC FAIR
Sunday, 22nd October
Next Sales October 29 and
November 12
KINVER COMMUNITY
CENTRE, DY7 6ER
10.30am - 4pm
Tel: 01384 894464

Music Shop

VOCALIST REQUIRED
FOR ROCK BLUES
BAND.
Wolverhampton
area.
Telephone
07587 222729.

Sports & Leisure

Free Ads
IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
For items upto £250.
Online at
bookanad.
expressandstar.co.uk

POWER TECH Body shaper. £200.
£50.
01902 684884.

holidays

Travel Abroad

READERS ARE REMINDED
to check with any Advertisers
that their holiday costs are fully
covered by a recognised bonding or
insurance scheme.

mind, body & soul

Massage

MOBILE Aromatherapy Massage
Therapist Home / Hotel. To book
appointments call 07437 569187.

3 Home & Services

Carpets/ Furnishings

CARPET, heavy duty, industrial
quality, stain guarded, 25ft x 13ft,
cost over £12 per sqm, accept
£225. 07787 636984.

Furniture

4FT 6" double luxury memory foam
pocket sprung mattress and bed,
unused. Cost over £900. Accept
£245. Telephone 07787 636984.

BEAUTIFUL M&S THREE
PIECE SUITE
Less than 2 years old, very
good condition, 2 seater settee,
2 large comfy armchairs.
Cost £2,000
Accept £350 ovno.
01384 872955.

EXCELLENT CONDITION bur-
gundy 3-seater settee and 2-seater
settee, all recliner. £250. Less than
12 months old. 01384 348971.

OAK DROP leaf table and 4 chairs,
£50, approx 69" length. Dutch
Dresser, £50, approx 38" length.
Must collect. 01902 651063.

THREE PIECE SUITE
Three seater sofa,
two reclining armchairs,
beautiful tan suede leather.
Very luxurious. Unused.
Was over £2,300
Accept £845.
0778 7636984.

Household Appliances

HOTPOINT UPRIGHT FREEZER
165cm high, frost free, 3 months
old, 9 months guarantee, cost £350
sell £150. 01562 914891.

Items For Sale

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
That the Business Advertise-
ments (Disclosure) Order of
1977 requires that advertise-
ments must clearly differentiate
between Private and Trade.

HAVE YOU CHECKED your adver-
tisement today? We would respect-
fully remind advertisers that it is
their responsibility to inform the
publishers of any mistakes or in-
accuracies on the first day of publica-
tion.

Items Wanted

A BEST CASH PRICE

FOR ALL RAILWAY
COLLECTIONS
Any gauge or age
Hornby/Bachmann/Bowman/
Roundhouse/Graham/Farsh/
any live steam. Also Die Cast,
Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.
01384 836219/07891 713547
thetrainmaster67@
hotmail.com

COINS, MEDALS, BANK NOTES
Wanted by private collector.
Telephone 01902 676540.

READERS ARE ADVISED to
carefully consider all of their options
before agreeing to the sale of any
of their items.

SPECTRUM GAMES wanted plus
any old Crash Magazines wanted,
also any old your Sinclair Mag-
azines wanted. 01902 892918.



A BEST CASH PRICE PAID
FOR DIE CAST CARS /
LORRIES / TOY SOLDIERS
Air fix, Britains, Corgi, Dinky,
Spot on, Tri-ang.
Best prices paid.
Any condition.
Collections bought.
Telephone 01922 327897
or 07976 691563.

WANTED

ALL MILITARIA ITEMS
FROM WARS WANTED BY
COLLECTOR
Swords, medals, helmets etc,
single or full items.
German, Japanese, British.
Will collect.
Very good prices paid
07511 500337.

AUTO MEMORABILIA WANTED

SHELL, ESSO,
CASTROL ETC
ALSO

GARAGE CLEARANCES

Old Enamel Signs,
Petrol Cans,
Old Jugs,
Bikes and Motorbikes.
Anything old.

**** TOP PRICES PAID ****

01384 836219/07891 713547

WANTED

VINTAGE TAMIYA REMOTE
CONTROL MODELS
Also any old radio controlled
models in any condition,
Mardave, Kyocho, Traxxas, HPI
Team Associated, Schumacher

Big or small collections bought.

07568 585075 or
0121 532 2544.

Loans

READERS ARE REMINDED
that they may require profes-
sional advice before entering into
obligations.

specialists at your service

Aerials

CLASSIFIEDS BOOSTS BUSINESS!



"I am very pleased
with the response
I get from my
Classified
Advertising
Contract"

Steve -
AA Digital Aerials

For great business
results call
01902 319 191

Classified Ads
Brought to you by **Express & Star**

AA DIGITAL AERIALS
AERIALS FITTED FROM £79.99
01902 858191 • 01384 429166
01543 439095 • 01922 716029

Alarms/Security

PREMIER ALARMS

Supplied and Fitted £249
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

Building Services

G & D BUILDERS

Over 35 years exp.
All aspects of building work
Extensions, loft conversions, roofing,
driveways & landscaping.
All work guaranteed
07837 994465 / 01902 579592

Building Supplies

QUALITY DOORS AND HARD-
WOOD FLOORING @ low prices.
Call Arnold Laver 0121 533 5426.

Fencing

CLASSIFIEDS BOOSTS BUSINESS!



"I am extremely happy with the service I get from my Express & Star Classified Sales Representatives and would recommend them to anyone! They have done a very professional job with my website so I get online enquiries as well now."

Michael - Portway Fencing

For great business results call

01902 319 191

ClassifiedAds

Brought to you by Express & Star

PORTWAY FENCING
SPECIAL OFFER
10 Bays of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards **£695**
Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted.
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 9am - 4.30pm
Sat 8am - 12noon
83 Portway Rd, W'bury
DELIVERY AVAILABLE
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

Roofing

MC ROOFING Flat roofs, tiling, roof repairs, fascias and gutters. Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.

Gas Fitting

READERS ARE ADVISED To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered. It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

House Clearances

A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. 07852 172641 / 07710 360327

Plastering

STEVES PLASTERING SERVICE Clean and Reliable. All Work Undertaken. All Areas. Call 0121 567 5919 / 07977 262943.

Removals

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

KT HOUSE REMOVALS

12 years experience.
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
07771 727119

Rubbish Removal

LET'S TALK RUBBISH No Skips Needed. Load/Remove any Waste, House Clearance. 07969 628382

4

Pets & Animals

Equestrian Corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies have the required Passport information.

Guns & Dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

Pets Corner

NOTICE TO READERS Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer.

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with its Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

PUG X FRENCH BULL DOG X pups, ready now, microchipped, 1st vacc, wormed £450 07929 302857.

PUPPIES

We have in our care 5 stunning, adorable 8 week old small cross breed designer puppies, boys and girls. These heart melting little bundles of joy are currently being cared for at a Foster home, you can view the puppies on our website at

www.dogsamaritans.org.uk and for information on 01588 676106.

Each puppy will cost £250 but will be vaccinated, microchipped and comes with a complete health check, all homes will be vetted.
01588 676106.



ROSEDENE RESCUE CENTRE

1, Radley Road, Rushall, Walsall. WS4 1LN.
01922 627013.

Open Monday to Saturday

11am - 5pm.

Sundays - Bank Holidays

11am - 4pm.

Takes in relinquished dogs from owners, all areas (if they are vet checked/up to date with jabs.)

Donations of dog food, toys, bedding and vet bills always appreciated.

STUNNING BLACK Cock-a-poo puppies for sale.
07891 614333.

WANTED Aviary birds for large private aviary. Also pigeons and poultry for beginner and parrot for house pet. 07970 485491.

WESTIE PUPPIES Pedigree, 2 boys, £300. Parents can be seen. 01902 656216 after 2pm.

5

Business & Farming

Business Opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering into any obligations.

6

Property

Accommodation To Let

NOTICE TO READERS Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments/contracts.

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

RECENTLY REFURBISHED 1 and 2 bed flats, Netherton / Dudley, close to Merry Hill, DSS welcome. 01562 885668 or 07831 200692.

SINGLE FLAT suit mature Gent, refurbished throughout, all up to spec. Gornal area. £90 p.w. Call 0771 5603357.

SMART SINGLE ROOMS in Shared house, Netherton. £85 p.w. inc. bills. No DSS. 2 weeks deposit. 07940 116130.

Flats for sale

GROUND FLOOR

APARTMENT

Two bedroom,

Situated in the village of Penn,

Large parking area.

Drastically reduced for quick sale.

£104,000 ono.

01902 331155.

Properties Wanted

WE PAY 100% of purchase price EVERY TIME!
FAST 4 Your House CASH



You agree the price, we buy the house...

- NO AGENTS FEES • COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU
- FREE SOLICITORS • ANY HOUSE, ANY CONDITION

0800 999 999 6
01384 500 500 30 yrs

www.black-country-homes.co.uk * subject to terms

CASH NOW FOR YOUR HOUSE
UP TO **£25,000** CASH ADVANCE NOW (in 24hrs)
We can buy your house in 7 days
0800 389 6788 01902 628047

Need to sell your house quick?
WE WILL BUY YOUR HOME...
FAST FOR CASH
Guaranteed sale in 48 Hours
✓ No Hassle For You
✓ No Commission or Surprises
MPK Call us today on: **01902 50 44 48** or visit our website: mpknights.co.uk

Home Cash Buyer

Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish

£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££

Houses / Land Required

Ring Paul 24/7 Local **07870 341 089**

Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154

Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049

Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901

www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

I WILL BUY YOUR HOUSE

• Any Price • Any Condition • Any Area

Call Paula 01384 467643

★ Local ★ Independent ★ Confidential

Overseas Property

NOTICE TO READERS Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

8

Motoring

Cars Over £1500

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.



FORD FIESTA 1.0 ECO BOOST

21,654 miles, excellent condition, fsh, £0 tax, blue, abs, electric windows, air con, alarm, MoT, central locking, 1 owner, pas, alloys, stereo, CD, spots.

£7,500 ono.

07891 944781.



FORD FIESTA 1.4

Petrol. Five door. 2010. (later shape), 66,800 miles, service history. One previous owner. Magenta metallic, long MoT. Looks and drives really well.

£3,975 ono.

01902 674550.



FORD FIESTA ZETEC

2010, 31,500 miles, Metallic Silver,

1.25cc, MoT, 4 new tyres,

FSH, Immaculate condition.

Garaged. Lady owner. Air con.

Electric windows/Mirrors

£3,995 ono

07984 626831.



FORD FIESTA ZETEC

2007, TDi, 64,000 miles, blue, abs, electric windows, electric mirrors, fsh, alarm, long MoT. Superb condition.

£2,195.

01902 897680.

BARGAIN

FORD KA

13 reg

one owner, 30,000 miles,

fsh, metallic blue,

cheap tax and insurance,

lady owner,

new baby force sale,

£2,795.

07404 322690.

MUST BE SEEN

HONDA ACCORD

EXECUTIVE

05 reg., one owner, MoT till end March, 90,500 miles, silver, sunroof, Sat Nav, electric heated front seats, good condition.

£1,900

01902 850608.

MUST BE SEEN

HYUNDAI i 10

2009, 25, 655 miles, silver, abs, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, air con, fsh, alarm, long MoT, Alloy wheels.

£2,595

07971 291203.

1ST TO SEE WILL BUY

KIA SORENTO

XS

76,000 miles, 2003, one owner from new,

many extras, no tow bar, silver,

long MoT,

£2,000 ono.

07918 163289.

ESTATE

MERCEDES ESTATE CAR

E270 Elegance, 2004, automatic, diesel, 1398mls, full MOT and history, beautiful condition.

£2,495 ono

01562 730897

or

07563 795191.

1ST TO SEE WILL BUY

NISSAN NAVARA

2013, 31 plate, manual, 64,000 miles, Sat Nav, leather, towbar, quality canopy, fsh, grey.

£11,500.

Telephone 07944 818083

or 01584 872986.

DIESEL

NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DIESEL

09 plate,

72,000 miles,

FSH,

2 owners from new.

£5,500 ono.

07972 508526.

BARGAIN

PEUGEOT 107

2011 reg, petrol,

8 months MoT, £20 tax,

Must be seen.

Excellent condition.

£1,695.

07377 981431.



RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE

2012, 38,000 miles, abs, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, air con, fsh, long MoT, cruise control,

Navigation System, half leather

£3,499 ono.

07879 403302.



VAUXHALL INSIGNIA EXCL

128 CDTi, 2.0, silver, 2011,

long MoT.

First to see will buy.

£3,000 ono.

07913 981460.

MUST BE SEEN

VOLVO 855 GLT AUTO

One owner from new

1995

Very low mileage.

£1,000.

01902 894100.

VW GOLF 1.6 2014, diesel 14,300 Miles, red, 5 door, one lady owner. Exceptional condition. £11,400 0772050531

1ST TO SEE WILL BUY

VW GOLF

2.0 TDI SPORT

2006 reg.

5 door hatch back.

Black.

Good condition.

130,000 miles.

New cam belt.

MoT'd.

£2,195 ono.

07787 410300.

We specialise in:
New Roofing, Re Roofing, Leak Repairs,
Emergency Repairs, Lead Work, Tiling and Slating.

07476 834512 0121 4204374

www.stoppsandpage.co.uk



LOW MILEAGE

NISSAN ALMERA

T reg.,
80,000 miles,
MoT March 2018,
great runner,
good condition inside and out,
Lady owner,
lots of service history.
£375 ono
07487 797639.



NISSAN X-TRAIL

2003, 104,600 miles, metallic
green, abs, air con, fsh, alarm,
MoT, central locking, sunroof,
DAB / Bluetooth radio, towbar,
excellent condition.
£1,850.
01384 298598.

BARGAIN

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 ELEGANCE

2003, Silver colour, 3Dr hatch,
MoT 4 months, mileage
66,000,
good condition.
£550 o.n.o.
Wolverhampton
07791 703843

Classic Cars



FORD ESCORT

Escort 1300e.

This car has been restored over
the past 3 years it is registered
in my name and with MoT.

£4,400

0044 1623272106

WANTED, CLASSIC Car. Private
cash buyer. Any condition, anything
considered.
01630 652993 or 07773 462797.

Scrap Vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded
that it is an offence under the Scrap
Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy
scrap cars/metal for cash.

ABC AUTO SALVAGE
WANTED URGENT
Scrap & MOT Failures Best
Prices Paid ELV Registered
Spares Always Available
0121 557 0800 or
0121 557 0400.
Oldbury Area.

Vehicles Wanted

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best
price for your unwanted cars/vans.
07903 549849, buyer will call.

alan reed cars

Used cars wanted for cash
Top prices paid. HP settled.
Buyer could call.
01562 711083 /
07831 245313

spares & accessories

Accessories & Services

SMART 2 brand new fitted weather
cover plus nearly new floor mats,
£35. 01902 894593.

7

Jobs

Full Time General

Courses



BIRMINGHAM: 30 NOV.-1 DEC. & 27-28 JAN.
STOKE: 17-18 JAN. **TELFORD:** 25-26 JAN.
WOLVERHAMPTON: 6-7 DEC. & 8-9 MARCH

Learn how to take blood TRAIN AS A PHLEBOTOMIST

NATIONALLY RECOGNISED AND ACCREDITED
Introduction to Phlebotomy
TWO DAY COURSE - National UK Qualification
NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

For more info
or to book: **www.geopace.com**

HIGH DEMAND IN: Hospitals - GP Surgeries - Clinics - Private Sector - Community - MOD



STAR PUBLIC RELATIONS

PR Executive

Star Public Relations is looking to recruit an ambitious and dynamic PR Executive who is willing to get stuck in and help deliver for our growing portfolio of clients, as well as support the agency as we target new business opportunities.

Under the guidance of the agency director, the successful candidate will be required to plan and manage client work; attend meetings with clients; research and write press releases, features and other content; liaise with media; oversee social media accounts; help organise and manage events; monitor for media coverage and prepare coverage reports for clients; and much more...

This role is ideal for someone who has begun their PR career, but now wants to move up a step and learn and develop at a supportive and friendly agency.

The successful candidate must have:

- At least two years of agency or in-house experience
- Solid written and verbal communication skills
- The ability to take instructions, plan workload and undertake tasks with little fuss
- An ability to think creatively and produce compelling content
- Confidence and credibility when pitching to media and clients, both current and prospective
- Enthusiasm and a willingness to learn
- Good knowledge of various social media platforms

Additional benefits

The successful candidate will benefit from flexible start and finish times, as well as the opportunity to work from home on occasion. Days off in lieu are also provided should weekend work be required. The successful candidate will also be provided with the opportunity to enhance their PR skills through training provided by the Chartered Institute for Public Relations (CIPR).

- Full-time PR Executive
- Salary - £22k-£25k per annum (depending on experience)
- Location - Telford (primary) and Wolverhampton

Please send your CV along with a covering letter to: **HR Department, Midland News Association, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES**

Or apply by email to: **hr@mnamedia.co.uk.**

Deadline for submission is Thursday 26th October 2017

MNA Media

SENIOR JOURNALISTS

The Midland News Association, publishers of the Shropshire Star and Express & Star, is looking for senior journalists to join its team based in Shropshire.

This is the ideal role for an ambitious, dedicated and enthusiastic writer with a proven track-record of digging out the best off-diary news stories, features and analysis. You should be comfortable writing for a range of publications including newspapers and magazines.

We are looking for journalists able to come up with ideas and deliver compelling content on a consistent basis.

You must be an NCTJ-trained journalist, able to deliver accurate, entertaining copy to meet strict deadlines. You must have a full, clean driving licence. Some experience of working in a newsdesk role would be an advantage.

You will benefit from a competitive salary, 25 days annual holiday and the chance to develop your career at Britain's largest independent regional news company.

Apply by e-mail to Shropshire Star editor Martin Wright at **editorial.support@shropshirestar.co.uk** by 5pm on Friday, October 27.

Postal applications to Martin Wright, Editor, Shropshire Star, Ketley, Telford TF11 5HU by Monday, October 30.

Owners of Express & Star Ltd and Shropshire Newspapers Ltd

Express & Star

Express & Star

BE A LOCAL STAR

Sales Relationship Merchandiser

Do you have an eye for detail, are you
self - motivated, enthusiastic and are able to
communicate effectively and with confidence.

The Express and Star are looking for a sales relationship merchandiser to join our team helping to grow audience, strengthen the relationship with retailers, readers and ensure the brand experience is positive.

Working within a busy customer focused environment, the successful applicant will work as part of a team, in designated territories, you will be required to ensure that all our titles are available, in key strategic positions to maximise response and exposure.

Previous sales or merchandising experience in the FMCG market is desirable, but not essential. The ability to react quickly and positively to a wide variety of situations is required. A professional attitude must be displayed at all times. You must have a full current driving licence, transport will be provided.

In return we offer full training and support, an annual salary of £8,360, 25 days holiday per year and enrolment into the company pension scheme.

The position is 20 hours per week worked across 5 days between Monday-Saturday, weekends and Bank Holiday working will be required on a rota basis.

If you would like to be considered for this role please send your cv and covering letter to:
HR Department Midland News Association, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES
or by e-mail to: **hr@mnamedia.co.uk** Closing date: Friday 27th October, 2017.

9 Local Information

Public Notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES

For convenience you may fax
any advertising requirements to

Marie Hogg on
01902 713146
or email **marie.hogg@**
expressandstar.co.uk

(remember to include a
name/contact number for
confirmation of receipt)

DOROTHY MAY NEWTON-PRITCHARD (also
known as **DOROTHY MAY PRITCHARD** and
also known as **DOROTHY MAY NEWTON**
PRITCHARD) (deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or
an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of Two
Gates House Care Home 61-63 Two Gates Lane Halesowen B63 2JJ
formerly of Sunnyside 3a Drews Holloway Halesowen West Midlands B63
2AF, who died on 29/08/2017, are required to send particulars thereof in
writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 22/10/2017, after which
date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and
interests of which they have had notice.
REES PACE SOLICITORS
812 Waterloo Road
Wolverhampton WV1 4BL

753089

ERIC NORMAN ANDREWS
(deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 66
Waverley Crescent, Bromley Halesowen West
Midlands B62 0NY, who died on 10/09/2017, are
required to send particulars thereof in writing to
the undersigned Solicitors on or before
29/12/2017, after which date the Estate will be
distributed having regard only to claims and
interests of which they have had notice.
GEORGE GREEN LLP
195 High Street Cradley Heath
West Midlands B64 5HW

7513632

10 Personals

Personal

62 YEAR OLD MALE
Seeks female for companion-
ship, aged or nationality
unimportant.
Photo appreciated and
returned.
Box Number P20987,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton,
WV1 1ES.

**A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO
ALL LONELY FEMALES**

Aged 55-67.

So I am a single male, easy
going with GSOH, seeks a
lovely lady with lots of fun, aged
55-68.

What do you want to find out of
life in the future?

Happy New Year.

Don't be alone.

Box Number P20981,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

ATTRACTIVE lonely Female
seeking broadminded males within
a 20 mile radius. 01902 489 181.

EAGLES FEMALE FAN OF ANY AGE

Welcome to accompany Gent
to Talon at The Grand Theatre,
on October 31.

Box Number P20983 ,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

ATTRACTIVE MALE 57

No ties, own house and car,
kind and caring, enjoys
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abroad, nice restaurants, nights
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Probably best car Vauxhall makes

By Ian Donaldson

Vauxhall can't have heard about the demise of diesel; the new range topping Insignia Country Tourer comes with nothing else.

In fact, there isn't even a choice of engine until a second one arrives in a few weeks. And that's a diesel too.

Of course, Vauxhall knows diesels are going to be around for years and the overhyped stories that diesel is in its death throws are simply nonsense.

Which is just as well if you enjoy your driving, for the newcomer is probably the best car Vauxhall currently makes.

Ability

For a £1,355 premium over the normal Sport Tourer you gain four-wheel drive in the most expensive version, while all of them have a gently raised ride height (+20mm) and the macho black plastic cladding and silver skid plates that these days signifies a car with the ability to handle a slippery forest track.

The result is a big car, more than five metres long, that socks it to the likes of Audi's Allroad and the VW Passat Alltrack but for thousands less, starting the three car range at £25,635.

All of them share a 168bhp 2.0 litre turbo diesel engine and the ability to touch 135mph and hit 62mph in around nine seconds while managing better than 43mpg in the official test. A 210 horsepower diesel arrives shortly and automatic gears are already an option in a Country Tourer in front-drive form. Order the 4x4 (£27,235) and you'll have a car that is mostly front wheel drive most of the time but can switch power to the back wheels in an instant when slip is detected.

Beneath the new body cladding sits a car



Standard kit includes a fine satellite navigation system



This car has plenty of space for passengers in the rear

with enough space in the rear seat to act a stand-in limo and a boot that varies from generous (560 litres) with the seat back upright to vast (1,665 litres) with it folded down.

Lack of room will never be a problem here. Nor will the fittings and fixtures that come with a car Vauxhall perches at the pinnacle of the Insignia range.

As befits the poshest model there are a

host of standard features, from a tailgate that opens with a well aimed kicking motion under the rear bumper to roof rails that can cope with loads up to 100kg.

You and your passengers should never feel a wintry chill in this car, with heated front seats as standard and outer rear seats as an option along with the option of a heated steering wheel for the driver and a heated windscreen to quickly banish early morning frost.



This version of the Insignia goes well beyond its specification and turns into an enjoyable ride

Standard kit also includes a fine satellite navigation, cruise control, leather faced seats, 19ins alloy wheels, panoramic camera and Vauxhall's OnStar system that gives you a wi-fi hotspot in the car and automatic crash response if the worst happens.

But this version of the Insignia goes well beyond its specification and turns into an enjoyable drive as soon as you head off down the road, a potent and easy-going

diesel engine mating with a precise manual gearchange to provide a car with genuine punch.

On a properly surfaced road, even in pouring rain, you're unlikely ever to trigger the 4x4 system into instant action. But come a winter chill or a muddy lane in deepest February and you might be very glad that your Country Tourer will take care of things for you.



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VAUXHALL

A giant leap forward for SsangYong

By John Griffiths

South Korean 4x4 specialists SsangYong have relatively modest aspirations for sales of its all-new Rexton model in the UK.

It may be realistic but in many ways it's a pity as the budget brand's latest offering is a giant leap forward on the previous Rexton, very capable and exuding a more upmarket feel. It's a full-size SUV packed with technology and serious off-road ability, plus it's a seven-seater and a towing limit of 3,500kgs – enough for a horsebox with two equines on board or some of the biggest caravans.

Yet with prices starting at £27,500, it undercuts some of the current crop of SUV-styled cars with two wheel drive only, and space for only five passengers and a lot less luggage. Plus the Rexton has a five year, unlimited mileage warranty behind it.

SsangYong has been making 4x4s for more than 60 years, so it's no surprise that it has that aspect well sorted. But until recently – and the advent of the smaller but widely acclaimed Tivoli – it has had the image of being somewhat utilitarian in its approach.

Inspired by that car's success in Europe, the new Rexton follows its example with a stylish, sculpted new body, yet one which retains a suitability muscular appearance. Inside the story continues, with a modern panel and centre console, big, comfortable seats and a range of higher quality, softer materials. It's packed with technology, too.

The first and second row of seats have generous levels of head and leg room for adults, and even the fold-down pair of seats in the rear shouldn't be ruled out as full-size accommodation. The layout means luggage room is exceptional: from 820 to 1,977 litres

on five-seater versions and from 649 to 1,808 litres in the seven-seater (with rear seats folded flat).

In base level (EX) models the centre console is dominated by an eight-inch touch screen controlling the audio system, connectivity, the reversing camera view and the ability to link to your Apple and smartphone apps.

ELX and Ultimate models get a 9.2 inch HD screen which adds satnav and the 3D all-round monitoring system, with cameras which help you slip into tight parking places and, as was demonstrated on an off-road test, to avoid hazards like tree stumps and rocks.

The body, as well as being larger, is also stronger thanks to the use of high-strength steels, creating both a safer and better handling car. The safety systems include ABS, electronic stability programme, nine airbags, autonomous emergency braking, forward collision warning, lane departure warning, traffic sign recognition, blind spot detection and rear crossing traffic alert.

The driver's instruments include a colour 'supervision' panel allowing you to see such information as current speed limit, satnav prompts, trip information and a range of safety system alerts. Other standard features include electric windows, tailgate, cruise control, a heated leather steering wheel, windscreen wiper defroster, electric folding and heated mirrors and air conditioning.

The £37,500 flagship 'Ultimate' model adds luxuries such as leather upholstery, heated seats front and rear, ventilated and electrically adjustable front seats, LED foglights and cornering lights to name but a few highlights.

The heart of the new Rexton is SsangYong's own 2.2 litre diesel engine, mated to a six-speed manual gearbox or a smooth



The latest Rexton has a stylish, sculpted new body but retains its muscular appearance

seven-speed Mercedes auto. It has 181Ps of power and a hefty 420Nm of torque from just 1,400rpm which give it a 0 to 62mph sprint time of just under 12 seconds.

It actually feels livelier than that but the most remarkable thing about it (and the car as a whole) is its particularly low noise levels. In fact the Rexton has braggish rights over many of its rivals when it comes to what engineers call NVH (noise vibration and harshness) for its refined driving experience which complements the new, upgraded interior. It feels relaxed and comfortable, with

a surprising smooth ride considering its a car designed to take the rough with the smooth.

A simple rotary dial allows you to choose 'two high' for driving the rear wheels through the standard gear ratios to 'four high' for slippery conditions and 'four low' for four wheel drive and low ratios when the going really gets tough. With the addition of hill descent control the Rexton's off-road performance is impressive. Up and down steep, wet grassy slopes and tackling a series of inclines in the deep mud of an old quarry were taken in its stride during testing. The

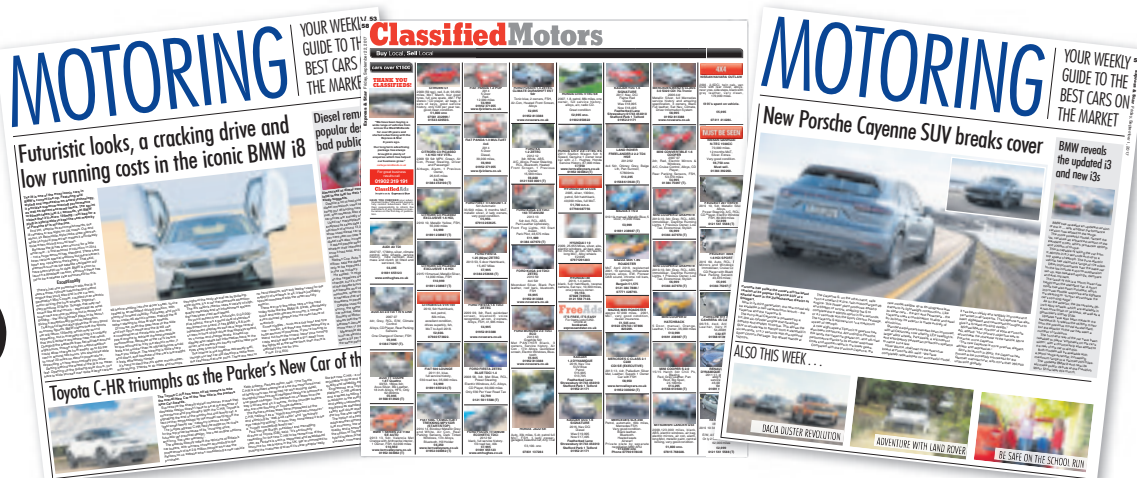
official average fuel consumption figures are 34 to 36mpg, depending on model and transmission choice, with CO2 figures of between 204 and 218g/km.

Appearances are subjective, of course, but SsangYong has created a car for all reasons: stylish family transport with serious off-road and towing ability that few in this price range can emulate.

It retains all of its predecessors' utility and workmanlike competence, but adds a lot more styling, luxury and refinement to tempt European – and particularly UK – car buyers.

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Mary Harding with Hugh Porter and the Roger Walter Trophy as guests celebrate the 50th anniversary



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Athletes run up golden anniversary celebrations

SPORTING FEATURE

By Ian Harvey

HUNDREDS of athletes turned out to a glitzy birthday dinner celebrating 50 years of Wolverhampton & Bilston Athletics Club.

Awards were handed out to this year's star performers as a toast was raised to the club's long running success.

Club president Mary Harding said it was great to see athletes young and old come together to celebrate the anniversary.

Olympic champion Denise Lewis MBE had been invited, but did not attend.

The Aldersley Road-based club has churned out international athletes over the years, with some going on to reach the top tier of athletics.

Mary said: "Tonight 480 people have come together from the old boys of 50 years ago with the athletes of today. There is a great combination of talent in this room tonight."

Club athletes, friends and family packed into WV1 Suite at Molineux Stadium where the birthday dinner was held.

Tables were lined out across the room, where people took their seats to listen to awards being handed out.

Brilliant

A party atmosphere filled the room as names were read out for athletes to walk up to the stage and collect their awards.

Around 50 awards were presented to athletes aged under 13 up to senior levels in track and field.

Mary added: "The event was absolutely brilliant, I couldn't have asked for it to go any better."

"Denise (Lewis) didn't come. It was a bit disappointing. She had the opportunity and we did expect her."

"It was a lovely event, all people came together to share their stories."

On the eve of the 50th birthday celebrations, the club staged the David Coleman Mile Races, named in honour of the popular former broadcaster who was president of the club during its heyday. It featured seven races in different categories.

The history of the club can be traced back to before



Sion Jones, Louise Jones, Eddie Starrs and Dawn Evans

"It was a lovely event, all people came together to share their stories."

the First World War in 1914, with a club based at Molineux with a track around the football pitch.

A decade later, Wolverhampton Athletics Club was formed and in 1943 they merged with Penn Harriers to form Wolverhampton Harriers. After using various grounds in Compton, at Tettenhall College and at Marsh Lane the club moved to Aldersley Stadium in 1956.

The municipal sports stadium was also home to Wolverhampton Wheelers Cycling Club.

In 1967 Bilston was incorporated into Wolverhampton in a local government reorganisation and the two local clubs, Wolverhampton Harriers and Bilston Town Athletic Club, merged to form Wolverhampton and Bilston Club.

The club went on to dominate track and field and was once the leading athletics club in Great Britain, winning the National League Division One for men from 1975 to 1982, the Men's National Cup final in 1976, 1977, 1979 and 1980.

It also represented Britain in the European Clubs Cup from 1976-83 with the best finishing position of third. Several Olympic, Commonwealth and European medallists have represented the club, with



Barry and Margaret Findlay

famous athletes pulling on the Wolverhampton and Bilston best including Jim Auckett, Don Holliday, Verona Elder (nee Bernard), Maureen Tranter, Rosemary Stirling, Mike Bull, Phil Lewis, Ralph Banthorpe, Sonia Lannaman, Kathy Cook (nee Smallwood), Gary Cook and Tessa Sanderson.

In 1960 Peter Radford broke the world 200m record in 20.5s in an international held at Aldersley.

The club suffered some decline in the 1980s. A spokesman said one of the chief reasons for this was that it is not possible to have eight lanes around the track due to the cycle track.

"This has prevented the club from hosting some of the larger meetings. However in recent years the club has had a resurgence," the spokesman added.

Youngsters

Male athletes now compete in the Midland's Men's League, while the females take part in the Midland Women's League and the National League.

Club nights are on a Tuesday and Thursday evening with youngsters, generally under 10s, meeting from 5.30 to 6.30pm and all other athletes from 6.30-7.30pm.

With 40 coaches, all England Athletics qualified, there is a comprehensive programme for all youngsters including running, throwing, jumping, hurdling and walking.

Email Tracy Cresswell at Tracy@wolvesandbilstonac.co.uk for further membership details.

VIP treatment for former Darlo heroes

FORMER Darlaston players are being given the VIP treatment as the club embarks on the Birmingham County Vase this weekend.

Darlaston Town (1874) remain the only club to have won the competition in consecutive years, 1990/91 and 1991/92. They entertain Coventry Alliance side AEI Rugby on Saturday. Players and officials from that 90s era are invited back as VIP guests, with free admission, complimentary programme, pre-match, half-time and post-match hospitality.

Among those in attendance will be Mark Bates, Mick Rawlings, Paul Brown, Phil Wood, Paul Rideout and Ian Hughes. Also likely to be there is former Walsall and Aston Villa player and manager of the 1991/92 Darlaston cup winning side Jimmy McMorran.

The club is appealing to all former players and officials who played a significant role in the history of the club to attend and see the new-look team and venue at the Paycare Ground, Bentley Leisure Pavilion. Get in touch with chairman Neil Chambers on 07976 752698.

All Wyton night as Cradley talk of Town

BOSS Andy Wyton declared Cradley Town have been 'dormant' for too long, but they are now on the rise as they set about a five-year-plan to improve the club.

Wyton is spearheading the project that bosses have put together to improve facilities and promote youth football.

Cradley, formed in 1948, currently lie second in the West Midlands Premier. And Wyton, a former player at the club, said: "Cradley have been dormant for too many years but we want to make sure they come out of it."

Their long-term project was drawn up at the end of last season, when Wyton became Town's sole manager after former joint-boss Mark Jones mutually parted ways with the club.

Cradley Town are based at The Beeches stadium, located in a housing estate on Beeches View Avenue in Cradley. Plans are in the pipeline to develop a number of junior sides and this has been boosted by the development of a miniature pitch.

Look Hughes back for darts Grand Slam

BLACK Country thrower Jamie Hughes is will be back on home soil next month after qualifying for the Grand Slam of Darts.

Wolverhampton's Civic Hall will host the tournament from November 11-19, with world No.1 Michael van Gerwen, legend Phil Taylor and double world champions Adrian Lewis and Gary Anderson among the biggest names lining up.

And joining the Professional Darts Corporation (PDC) heavyweights at the £450,000 event are eight players from the British Darts Organisation, including Tipton thrower Hughes.

Nicknamed Yozza, Hughes competes in a shirt of the Black Country flag and reached the second round on his debut last year. The 31-year-old has reached the semi-finals of the last two BDO World Championships, losing to the eventual winners - Scott Waites and Glen Durrant - on each occasion.

New sponsors have come on board to support the Grand Slam, with Austrian-based betting company Bwin replacing Thai brewers Singha Beer.



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Glassboys' cup hopes shattered

Stourbridge 0 Macclesfield 5
STOURBRIDGE'S love affair with the FA Cup was cruelly shattered by National League leaders Macclesfield, who produced a display of precision finishing to sink the Glassboys without trace.

Stourbridge found themselves facing a mountain to climb after just 12 minutes as Macclesfield went 2-0 up. They took the lead on nine minutes when an Elliott Durrell corner was headed clear by Stourbridge defender Stuart Pierpoint, straight into the path of Danny Whitehead, who let fly with a first-time shot that flew into the net.

Stourbridge responded by storming back upfield and forced a corner, from which Macclesfield goalkeeper Shwan Jalal saved a Jack Duggan header and quickly hoofed the ball downfield where it eventually fell for Tyrone Marsh to fire a fabulous shot into the corner of the net.

The game was effectively over when Macclesfield netted a third goal on the stroke of half-time, Durrell dispatching a delightful shot on the turn. Macclesfield made it 4-0 in 69 minutes via the dangerous Koby Arthur and saved the best for last when Scott Burgess smashed home a spectacular volley on 80 minutes to leave Glassboys goalkeeper Matt Gould hopelessly beaten.

Stourbridge have signed Luke Shearer from No.9 Derby rivals Halesowen Town. The 23-year-old, who can play as a striker or on the wing, has also played for the likes of Hednesford Town and Sporting Khalsa.

Tromans bags a championship place at London Marathon

ATHLETES from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club only had to travel down the road to Birmingham for race action at the weekend in the Birmingham International Marathon.

The club bagged one of its best ever race positions in an event of this type as Helen Tromans recorded sixth place in the ladies race, second in her age group and 154th overall in a time of 3.11.29. Not quite as fast as her best but good enough to qualify for the Championship start at next year's London Marathon.

Despite a great performance she was unable to claim first back for the club status with Darran Bishop finishing in 134th place in a very respectable 3.09.50. Tom Aston was 417th in 3.28.35, Mark Gatensby finished in 3.28.45 for 422nd, Graham Wildgoose came home in 3.37.18 in 608th. Richard Tonks got back in 4.08.05 at 1691st, Karen Doy in 4.08.05 in 1692nd, Nick Ma in 4.13.35 in 1913th, Lisa Kendrick in 4.15.12 in 1958th and Malcolm Beddall was 2224th in 4.22.22 on his marathon debut.

Later in the half marathon Stuart Perkins finished in 49th place in 1.22.16.

Saddling up to kick off fundraising



High Riders The Riding for the Disabled group

A MARTIAL arts club has kickstarted its fundraising initiative for the year ahead.

Young Gloves Karate boasts 350 students at 12 different schools, with classes held in Stourbridge, as well as in Stourport, Kidderminster and Bewdley.

Since forming 15 years ago, the club has helped to raise £56,000 for children's charities. This year's recipient is the High Riders Riding for the Disabled group in Stourport.

The fundraising efforts were launched with

the annual awards ceremony, celebrating the achievement of students throughout the year both in competitions and dedication to martial arts in class.

Some £600 was raised on the night, kicking off the bid to match, or beat, last year's total of £6,720.

A charity competition takes place on November 26. To sponsor a trophy or donate a raffle prize, contact Lisa Homer on 07904 913425. All the money raised will go direct to the High Riders.

YELTZ IN SPOT OF BOTHER

Halesowen Town 1 Romulus 1
Romulus win 4-3 on penalties

HALESOWEN slumped out of the Integro League Cup at the first stage against rock-bottom Romulus from a lower league.

The hosts dominated a first period of few chances with Daniel Udoh's 28th minute shot was saved by Curtis Hall. Yeltz then took the lead after half an hour when John McAtee broke on the left and, after his first attempt was blocked, the rebound fell kindly to slot past 'keeper Hall.

Before the interval Charlie Walford cleared Kyle Morrison's header off the Romulus line and Udoh forced a good blocking save from Hall with the home side seeming comfortable.

But Romulus looked a different side after the break and started to threaten as a 30-yard free-kick from Louis Harris drifted wide before a couple of good crosses escaped a final touch.

The visitors levelled in the 64th minute when Louis Harris's long range effort was parried by goalkeeper Dan Platt and Harry Harris converted the rebound.

Yeltz substitute Yasin Al-Massry was blocked on the line from Jack Kelly's injury time corner.

The tie went directly to a penalty shoot-out and the first spot-kick from each side was saved, h Hall saving from Kelly and Platt keeping out Malachi Farquharson.

Following three further successful penalties each, Asa Charlton put Halesowen's last penalty shot wide, allowing Romulus to win as Louis Harris smashed into the top corner.

Altrincham 3 Halesowen Town 0
Halesowen Town's mini unbeaten league run came to an end on Saturday against title favourites Altrincham, who went top of the Evo-Stik League Premier Division with this win.

Yeltz started well, forcing a series of corners which were headed over or wide.

Seconds after the break, Josh Hancock put Altrincham ahead. On 54 minutes John Johnston made it two from the spot and James Poole wrapped things up on 82 minutes.

Heathens tested the Eagles



A crowd-pleasing wheelie on the Monmore track, during possibly Heathens' last league meeting

IF this was to be Cradley's final league match, they went out with more of a bang than a whimper, despite going down to a 46-43 defeat.

What better way would there have been to sign off than by denying visitors Eastbourne a top-of-the-table place? The Eagles needed victory to finish on the summit and Cradley almost denied them. It all came down to the last heat with Cradley clinging to a single-point

lead. Skipper Tom Perry, returning from injury, swept to the front and guest Ben Hopwood worked his way to third. But Perry, still struggling with his arm, hit the shale on the pits turn. Hopwood could not land a blow in the rerun as Eagles pair Jake Knight, unbeaten from his five starts, and Josh Bailey closed out the win. Perry was distraught afterwards, saying: "A rubbish way to end the year."

Kennard has finished first in age group

BLACK Country Triathlete Rob Kennard, from Kingswinford, finished first in his age group at the Bedford Autodrome Duathlon this weekend.

The race was one of the season's qualifying races for the 2018 European Duathlons in Ibiza and involved a 10km run, 20km bike and a 5km run which Kennard completed in an overall time of 2:03:58. This placed him 27th overall and 1st in the 50-54 age group.

This comes at the end of a successful year of racing which saw him win his age group at the Powerman Duathlon in Mallorca. He also donned the GB suit several times for standard distance and long distance duathlon races at the European Championships in Sankt Wendel, Germany and World Championships in Zofingen, Switzerland where he finished 8th in age group and 1st GB athlete home.

His target for 2018 is to achieve an overall podium place at the European Championships and he will be starting his training in full in the New Year.

Also looking to qualify for an Age Group place in Ibiza next year were BCT youngsters Oliver Evans and Oliver Mason in the 15-19 age group. Evans finished in 1:04:06 finishing eighth in age group and Mason in 1:04:06 9th. Both are hoping that the results from last week's race at Oulton Park will allow them the chance to follow in other BCT athletes footsteps and represent their country in GB colours.

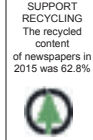
William in running for future success

A BOARDER at Old Swinford Hospital, Stourbridge, is in the running to become an athlete of the future.

William Kay, aged 14, came fifth in a field of 95 runners in the English Schools Fell Running Championships held in Settle, North Yorkshire. The Year 10 pupil was competing against boys from his own year and the year above and his finishing time of 24:33 was just a couple of minutes behind the overall winner.

He followed it up with a win at the Dudley Schools Cross Country trials, which qualified him to represent Dudley in the West Midlands Cross Country trials at Sutton Park.

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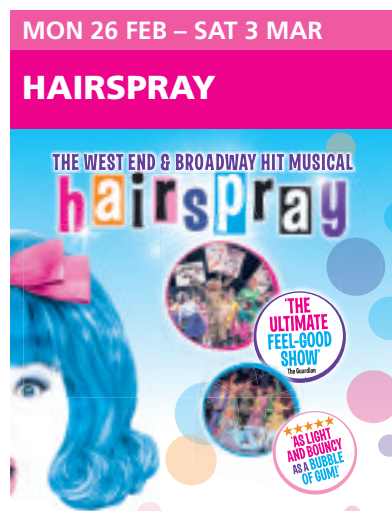
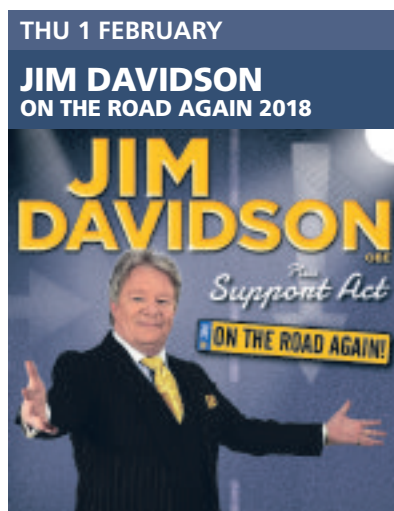
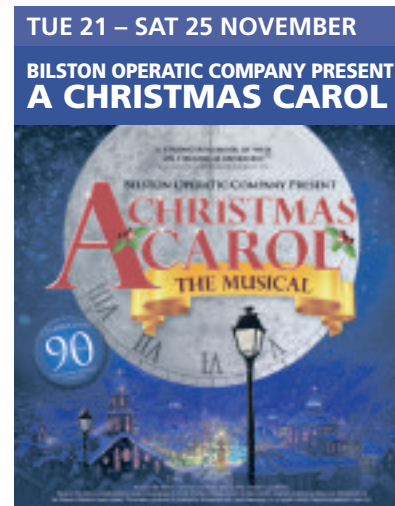
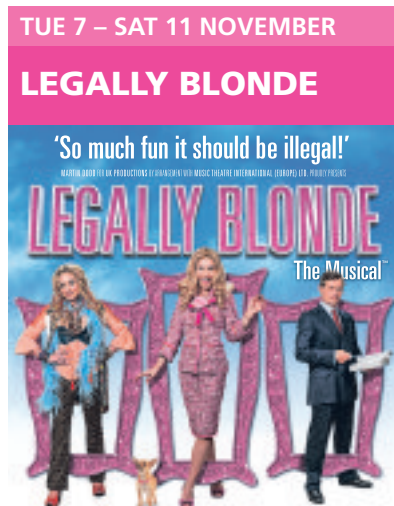
SAT 9 DEC 2017 - SUN 14 JAN 2018

LOCAL
PARTNER





GREAT SHOWS COMING UP AT **WOLVERHAMPTON GRAND THEATRE**



SAVE MONEY ON TICKETS BY BECOMING A MEMBER



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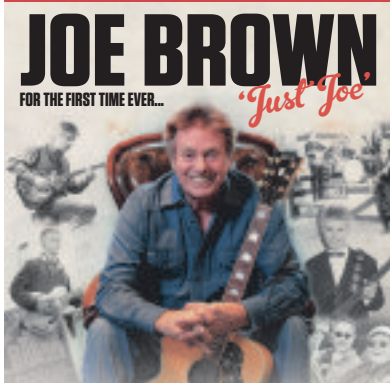
GREAT SHOWS COMING UP AT **WOLVERHAMPTON GRAND THEATRE**

WOLVERHAMPTON
GRAND
THEATRE

3
Thursday, October 19, 2017

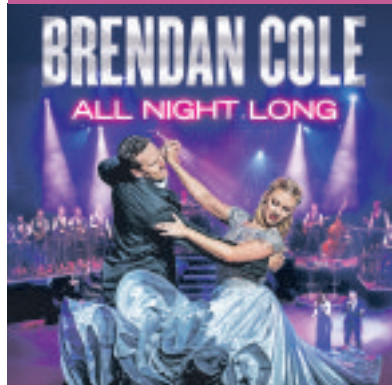
THU 8 MARCH

JOE BROWN



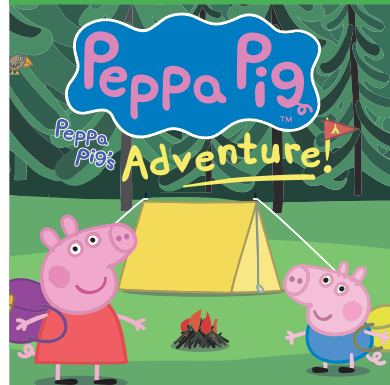
THU 20 MARCH

**BRENDAN COLE
- ALL NIGHT LONG**



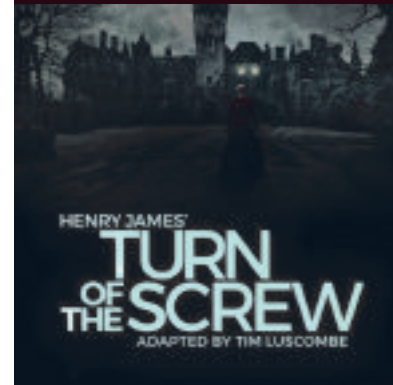
SAT 7 - SUN 8 APR

**PEPPA PIG'S
ADVENTURE**



TUE 10 - SAT 14 APRIL

**TURN OF THE
SCREW**



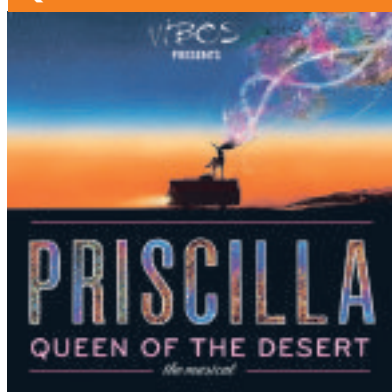
MON 16 - SAT 21 APRIL

BLOOD BROTHERS



TUE 24 - SAT 28 APRIL

WBOS PRESENT **PRISCILLA
QUEEN OF THE DESERT**



TUE 1 - SAT 5 MAY

**DR JEKYLL &
MR HYDE**



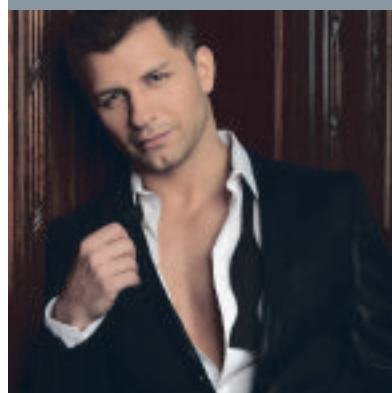
TUE 8 - SAT 12 MAY

CRAZY FOR YOU



SUN 20 MAY

PASHA KOVALEV



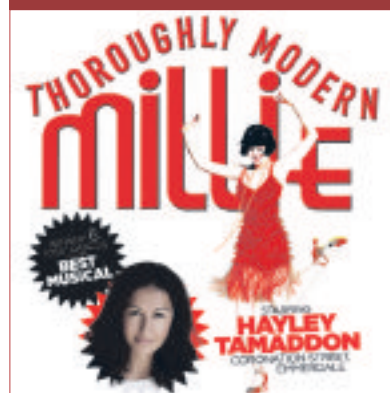
TUE 12 - SAT 16 JUNE

**BEAUTIFUL
THE CAROLE KING MUSICAL**



TUE 26 - SAT 30 JUNE

**THOROUGHLY
MODERN MILLIE**



TUE 28 AUG - SAT 8 SEPT

JERSEY BOYS



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TUE 6 - SAT 24 FEB 2018

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GRAND
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